Studies in
Health Policy

FRASER INSTITUTE

December 2011

Waiting Your Turn
Wait Times for Health Care in Canada
2011 report

by Bacchus Barua, Mark Rovere, and Brett J. Skinner

Key Conclusions

- Specialist physicians surveyed across 12 specialties and 10 Canadian provinces report a total waiting time of 19.0 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and elective treatment in 2011—the longest total wait time recorded since the Fraser Institute began measuring wait times in 1993.
- Patients in Ontario experience the shortest wait (14.3 weeks) followed by British Columbia (19.3 weeks), and Quebec (19.9 weeks)
- Patients wait longest to undergo plastic surgery (41.6 weeks) and wait least for medical oncology treatment (4.2 weeks)
- After an appointment with a specialist, Canadians wait nearly 3 weeks longer than what physicians believe is "reasonable" for elective treatment.
- Throughout the provinces, in 2011 people are waiting for an estimated 941,321 procedures. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.8 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment
- Only 9.4 percent of patients are on waiting lists because they requested a delay or postponement

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Précis

This edition of *Waiting Your Turn* indicates that waiting times for elective medical treatment have increased since last year. Specialist physicians surveyed across 12 specialties and 10 Canadian provinces report a total waiting time of 19.0 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and receipt of elective treatment.

At 104 percent longer than it was in 1993, this is the longest total wait time recorded since the Fraser Institute began measuring wait times in Canada.

Wait times between 2010 and 2011 increased in both the segment between referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist (rising to 9.5 weeks from 8.9 weeks in 2010), and the segment between a consultation with a specialist and receipt of treatment (rising to 9.5 weeks from 9.3 weeks in 2010). In fact, physicians themselves believe that Canadians wait nearly 3 weeks longer than what they consider is clinically "reasonable" for elective treatment after an appointment with a specialist.

There is, however, a great deal of variation in the total waiting time faced by patients across the provinces. While Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2011 (14.3 weeks); Prince Edward Island reports the longest at 43.9 weeks. The same is true of variations among specialties. Patients wait longest between a GP referral and plastic surgery (41.6 weeks), while those waiting for medical oncology begin treatment in 4.2 weeks.

It is estimated that, across all 10 provinces, in 2011 people are waiting for an estimated 941,321 procedures. This means that, assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.8 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment.

Importantly, physicians report that only about 9.4 percent of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement.

The results of this year's survey indicate that despite high levels of health expenditure and provincial wait time strategies, it is clear that patients in Canada are waiting too long to receive treatment.

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We are also pleased to acknowledge the important contributions of **Steven Globerman**, **Maureen Hazel**, **Joanna Miyake**, **Cynthia Ramsay**, **Greg Wilson**, and **Martin Zelder** in completing earlier versions of the survey and in building the base of knowledge that is incorporated into this publication.

Data-entry for this particular edition of Waiting Your Turn was completed with the assistance of Hillson Tse.

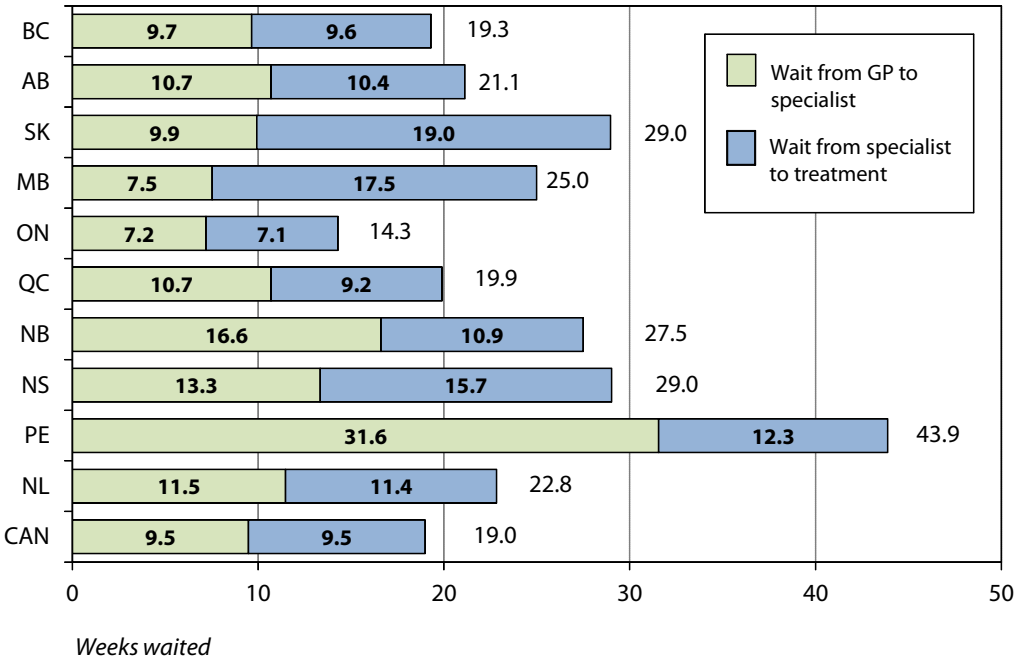
Findings

Total wait times

The Fraser Institute's twenty-first annual waiting list survey finds that province-wide wait times[1] for surgical and other therapeutic treatments have increased in 2011. The total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner and delivery of elective treatment by a specialist, averaged across all 12 specialties and 10 provinces surveyed, has risen from 18.2 weeks in 2010 to 19.0 weeks in 2011. Compared to 1993, the total waiting time in 2011 is 104 percent longer.

This nationwide deterioration in access reflects waiting-time increases in six provinces, while concealing decreases in Alberta, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador.

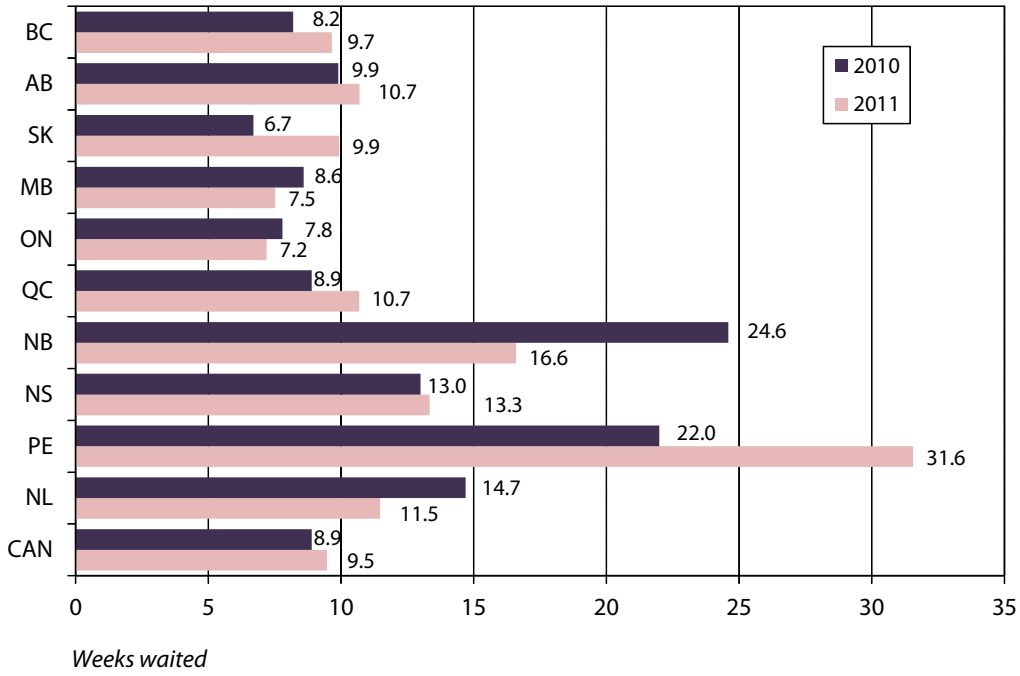
Chart 1: Median Wait by Province in 2011
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011.
Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

1 For a further explanation of how *Waiting Your Turn* measures wait times, see the "Method" section.

Chart 2: Waiting By Province in 2010 and 2011
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Appointment with Specialist



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011.

Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2011 (14.3 weeks), followed by British Columbia (19.3 weeks), and Quebec (19.9 weeks). Prince Edward Island has the longest total wait at 43.9 weeks, followed by Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan (29.0 weeks each) (see table 2 and chart 1).

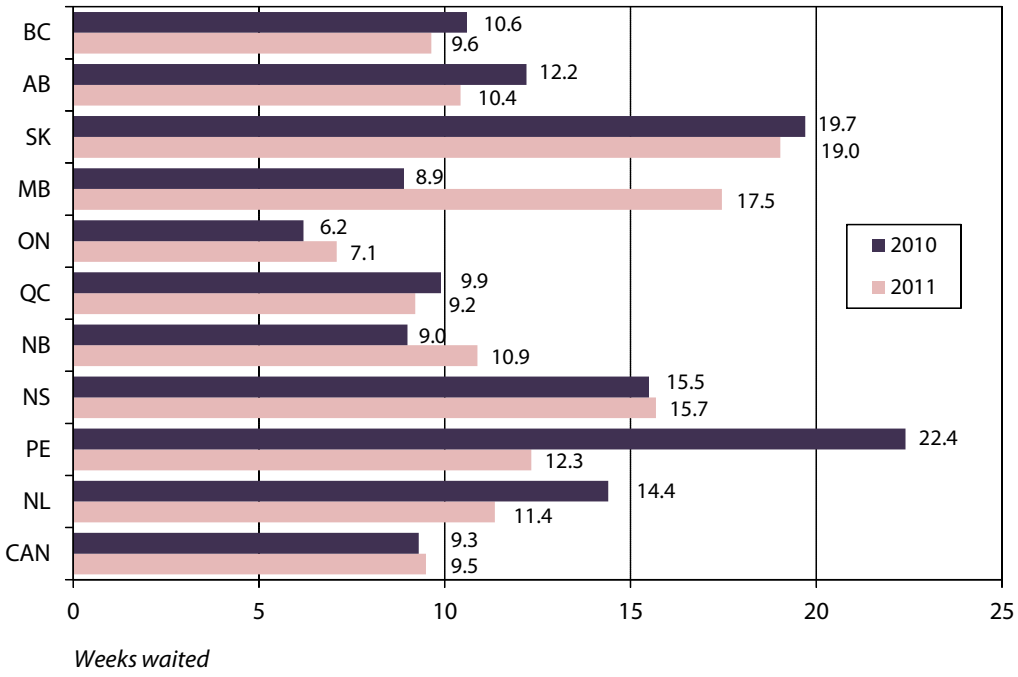
Wait time by segment

Total wait time can be examined in two consecutive segments:

1. The first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist.
2. The second segment occurs from the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment.

The rise in waiting time between 2010 and 2011 results from an increase in both segments.

Chart 3: Waiting by Province in 2010 and 2011
Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment, by Province

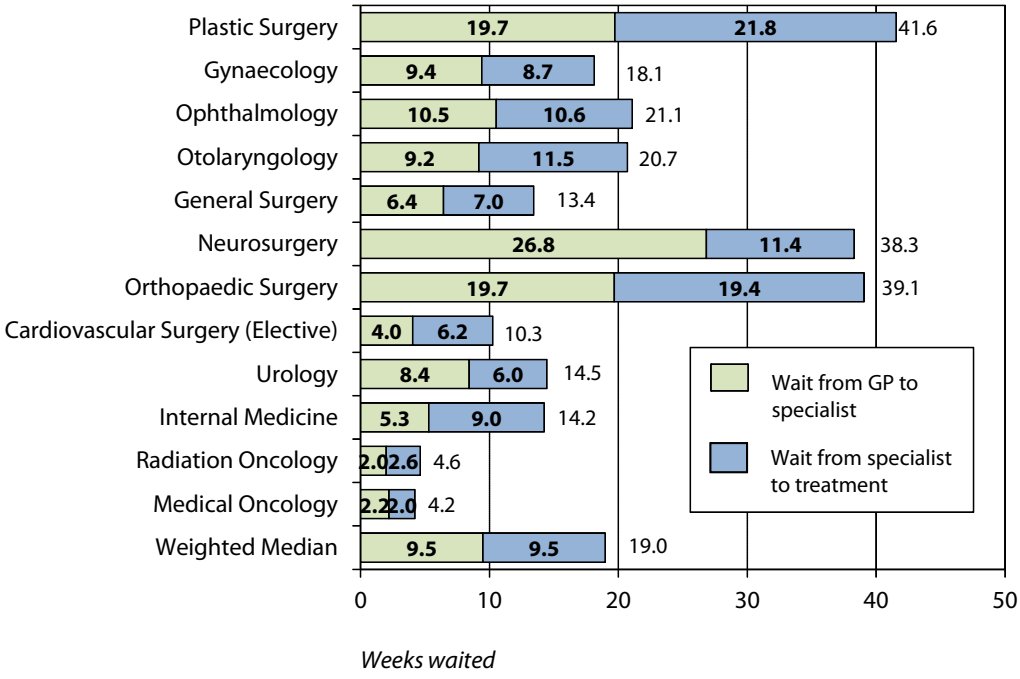


Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011.

The waiting time in the first segment, from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist, has risen from 8.9 weeks in 2010 to 9.5 weeks in 2011. This wait time is now 156 percent longer than in 1993 when it was 3.7 weeks (see graphs 1 and 2). The waiting time to see a specialist has increased in six provinces since 2010, but has fallen in Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland & Labrador (see chart 2). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Ontario (7.2 weeks), Manitoba (7.5 weeks), and British Columbia (9.7 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations occur in Prince Edward Island (31.6 weeks), New Brunswick (16.6 weeks), and Nova Scotia (13.3 weeks) (see table 3).

The waiting time in the second segment, from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment, has risen from 9.3 weeks in 2010 to 9.5 weeks in 2011. This portion of waiting is 70 percent longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks (see graphs 3 and 4). Interestingly, waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have decreased in six provinces, rising only in Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia (see table 6 and chart 3). The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Ontario (7.1 weeks), Quebec (9.2 weeks), and British

Chart 4: Median Wait by Specialty in 2011
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011.
Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

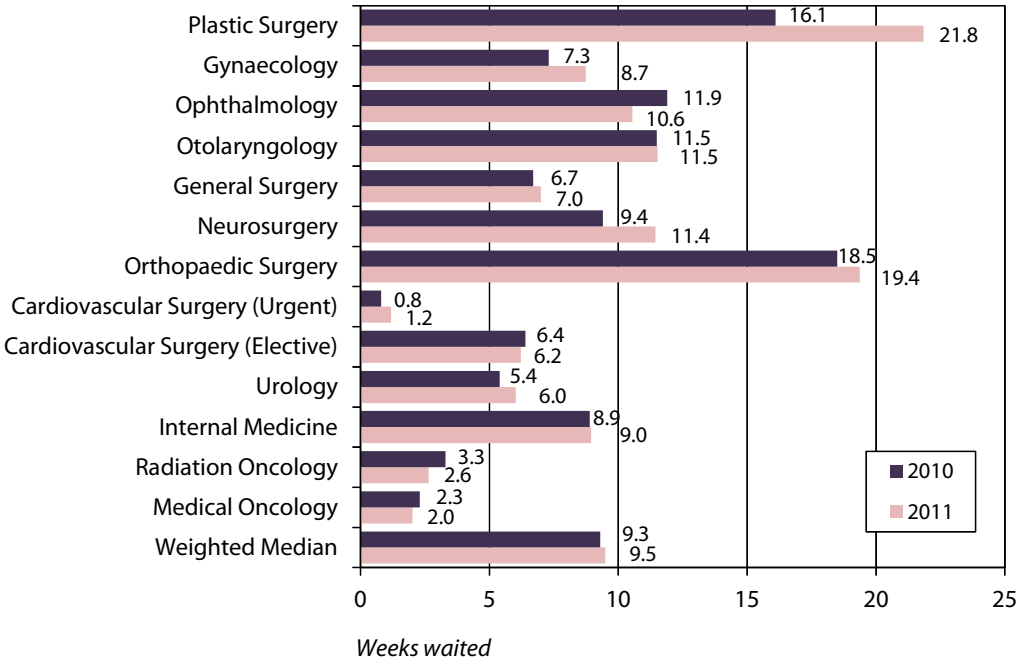
Columbia (9.6 weeks), while the longest such waits exist in Saskatchewan (19.0 weeks), Manitoba (17.5 weeks), and Nova Scotia (15.7 weeks) (see table 4).

Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for medical oncology (4.2 weeks), radiation oncology (4.6 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (10.3 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a GP referral and plastic surgery (41.6 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (39.1 weeks), and neurosurgery (38.3 weeks) (see table 2 and chart 4). The largest increases in waits between 2010 and 2011 have been for plastic surgery (+10.0 weeks), neurosurgery (+8.6 weeks), and orthopaedic surgery (+3.5 weeks). These increases are offset by decreases in wait times for patients receiving treatment in fields like ophthalmology (–2.5 weeks), radiation oncology (- 0.9 weeks), medical oncology (–0.7 weeks), and internal medicine (–0.2 weeks).

Breaking waiting time down into its two components, there is also variation among specialties. With regard to the first segment, the shortest waits are in radiation

Chart 5: Waiting by Province in 2010 and 2011
Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment, by Specialty



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011.

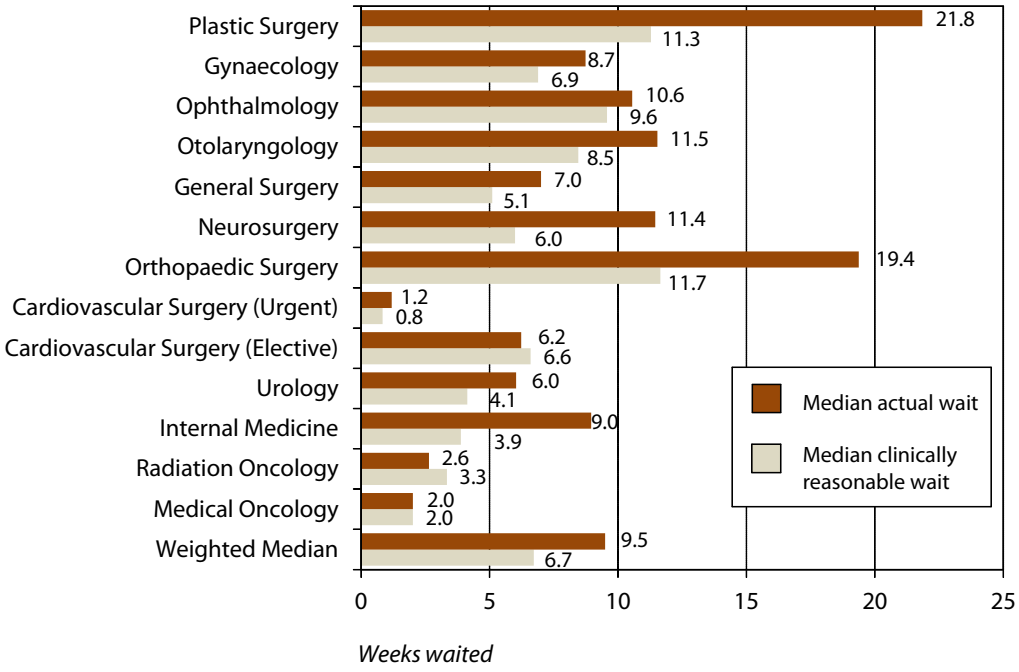
oncology (2.0 weeks), medical oncology (2.2 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (4.0 weeks). Meanwhile, the longest waits are for neurosurgery (26.8 weeks), plastic surgery (19.7 weeks), and orthopaedic surgery (19.7 weeks) (see table 3).

For the second segment, patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (1.2 weeks), medical oncology (2.0 weeks), and radiation oncology (2.6 weeks). They wait longest for plastic surgery (21.8 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (19.4 weeks), and otolaryngology (11.5 weeks) (see table 4 and chart 5). Median wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 5a-5l.

Comparison between clinically "reasonable" and actual waiting times

Specialists are also surveyed as to what they regard as clinically "reasonable" waiting times in the second segment covering the time spent from specialist consultation to delivery of treatment. Out of the 113 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time (table 4) exceeds reasonable waiting time (table 8) in 73 percent of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, Ontario and Alberta

Chart 6: Median Actual Wait Versus Median Clinically Reasonable Wait by Specialty for Canada: Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment in 2011



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011.

have come closest to meeting the standard of "reasonable" wait times. Their actual second segment waits only exceed the corresponding "reasonable" values by 24 and 30 percent, respectively, which are smaller gaps than in the other provinces (see table 10). These two provinces, however, achieve their performance by different means: the "reasonable" wait time in Alberta is among the longest in Canada at 8.0 weeks (only Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia reported longer "reasonable" wait times), while the "reasonable" wait time in Ontario is among Canada's shortest at 5.7 weeks (only Newfoundland & Labrador reported a shorter "reasonable" wait time of 5.6 weeks). Physicians in British Columbia and Quebec also hold relatively more stringent standards as to what is "reasonable." The greatest difference between these two values across all provinces for a specialty is in plastic surgery, where the actual waiting time is about 10.6 weeks longer than what is considered to be "reasonable" by specialists (see chart 6).[2] Median reasonable wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 9a-9l.

2 The greatest proportional difference for a specialty is in Internal Medicine, where the actual waiting time exceeds the corresponding reasonable value by almost 131 percent.

Chart 7: Waiting for Technology: Weeks Waited to Receive Selected Diagnostic Tests in 2011, 2010, and 2009

Province	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010	2000	2011	2010	2009
British Columbia	4	5.0	5.0	16	16.0	12.0	4	4.0	4.0
Alberta	4	4.0	4.0	10	11.5	8.0	2.5	3.0	3.0
Saskatchewan	6	5.0	6.0	12	12.0	11.0	4	3.0	3.0
Manitoba	5	4.0	5.0	8	8.0	8.0	6	4.0	5.0
Ontario	3.5	4.0	4.0	6	7.0	6.0	2	2.0	2.0
Quebec	5	4.0	5.0	10	10.0	11.0	8	8.0	8.0
New Brunswick	4	4.0	4.3	8	10.0	8.0	6	6.0	6.0
Nova Scotia	4	5.5	5.0	8	11.5	9.5	6	6.5	7.0
P.E.I.	4	5.0	8.0	10	8.0	14.0	12	4.5	15.0
Newfoundland	3	6.0	6.5	12	11.0	15.5	18	6.0	8.0
Canada	4.2	4.2	4.6	9.2	9.8	8.9	4.6	4.5	4.7

Note: Links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. The wait for a computed tomography (CT) scan in 2011 is 4.2 weeks, the same as in 2010. Newfoundland & Labrador has the shortest wait for a CT scan (3.0 weeks), while the longest wait occurs in Saskatchewan (6.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has decreased to 9.2 weeks in 2011 from 9.8 weeks in 2010. Patients in Ontario experience the shortest wait for an MRI (6.0 weeks), while British Columbians wait longest (16.0 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound has risen to 4.6 weeks from 4.5 weeks in 2010. Ontario has the shortest wait for an ultrasound (2.0 weeks), while Newfoundland & Labrador has the longest ultrasound waiting time: 18.0 weeks (see chart 7).

Numbers of procedures for which people are waiting

This study estimates that across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2011 is 941,321 (see table 12; table 14 presents the numbers for the provinces on a population adjusted basis), an increase of 14 percent from

the estimated 825,827 procedures in 2010. The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting has increased in six provinces, but has fallen in British Columbia, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.76 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2011, which varies from a low of 1.95 percent in Ontario to a high of 5.74 percent in Saskatchewan.[3] Tables 13a-13l show the number of procedures for which people are waiting within a specialty, by province.

3 These numbers should be interpreted with caution, especially for Saskatchewan. As a result of discussions with provincial authorities in 2002, counts of "the number of patients waiting for surgery" have been replaced with the "number of procedures for which patients are waiting." There do not, however, appear to be significant systematic differences between the numbers of "procedures for which people are waiting" estimated in this edition of *Waiting Your Turn* and counts of "patients waiting" reported by provincial ministries.

Method

This study replicates methods used in previous editions. The data for this issue of *Waiting Your Turn* were collected between January 12 and May 20, 2011. Survey questionnaires[4] were sent to practitioners of 12 different medical specialties: plastic surgery, gynaecology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, cardiovascular surgery, urology, internal medicine, radiation oncology, and medical oncology. This year, the overall response rate was 16 percent (see table 1).

The major findings from the survey responses are summarized in tables 2 through 15.

This study is designed to estimate the wait for elective treatment.[5] Waiting time is calculated as the median of physician responses. The median is calculated by ranking specialists' responses in either ascending or descending order, and determining the middle value.[6]

The provincial weighted medians, for each specialty, reported in the last line of tables 5a through 5l, are calculated by multiplying the median wait for each procedure (e.g., mammoplasty, neurolysis, etc., for plastic surgery) by a weight—the fraction of all surgeries within that specialty constituted by that procedure. The sum of these multiplied terms forms the weighted median for that province and specialty (an analogous method is used for tables 9a through 9l).

To obtain the provincial medians (displayed in the last row of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8), the 12 specialty medians are each weighted by a ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists of all types in the province. To obtain the national medians (displayed in the last column of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8) we use a similar ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists in that specialty across all provinces.

To estimate the number of procedures for which people are waiting, the total annual number of procedures is divided by 52 (weeks per year) and then multiplied by the Fraser Institute's estimate of the actual provincial average number of weeks waited. This means that a waiting period of one month implies that, on average, patients are

4 The Cornerstone Group of Companies provided mailing lists, drawn from the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls. Specialists were offered a chance to win a $2,000 prize (to be randomly awarded) as an inducement to respond. Physicians were contacted via letter-mail, facsimile, telephone and email.

5 Emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured for cardiovascular surgery.

6 For an even-numbered group of respondents, the median is the average of the two middle values.

waiting one-twelfth of a year for surgery. Therefore, the next person added to the list would find one-twelfth of a year's patients ahead of him or her in the queue. The main assumption underlying this estimate is that the number of surgeries performed will neither increase nor decrease within the year in response to waiting lists.

The number of non-emergency procedures for which people are waiting that were not included in the survey is also calculated, and is listed in table 12 as the "residual" number of procedures for which people are waiting. To estimate this residual number, the number of non-emergency operations not contained in the survey that are done in each province annually must be used. This residual number of operations (compiled from the CIHI data) is then divided by 52 (weeks) and multiplied by each province's weighted median waiting time for all specialties.

This study's weighting of medians and the estimation of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting are based on data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information's (CIHI) Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) for 2009-2010. Alberta and Quebec do not provide CIHI with discharge data for same-day surgeries. As a result, the authors have made a pro-rated estimate of same-day surgeries in Alberta and Quebec using the number of acute surgeries performed in these respective provinces.[7]

There are a number of minor problems in matching CIHI's categories of operations to those reported in the Fraser Institute survey. In a few instances, an operation such as rhinoplasty is listed under more than one specialty in *Waiting Your Turn*. In these cases, we divide the number of patients annually undergoing this type of operation among specialties according to the proportion of specialists in each of the overlapping specialties; e.g., if plastic surgeons constitute 75 percent of the group of specialists performing rhinoplasties, then the number of rhinoplasties counted under plastic surgery is the total multiplied by 0.75. A second problem is that, in some cases, an operation listed in the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire has no direct match in the CIHI tabulation. An example is ophthalmologic surgery for glaucoma, which is not categorized separately in the CIHI discharge abstract data. In these cases, we make no estimate of the number of patients waiting for these operations.

7 This represents a minor change in the methodology used for weighting medians, and the estimation of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting, across provinces. See "Change in estimation methodology for AB and QC" for further explanation.

Verification of data

Verification of current data with governments

On November 14, 2011, we sent preliminary data to provincial ministries of health, and to provincial cancer and cardiac agencies. As of December 5, 2011, we have received replies from provincial health ministries in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island as well as Cancer Care Ontario and the Cardiac Care Network of Ontario. A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Many provinces measure the waiting time as the time between the date on which a treatment is scheduled (or booked) and the date of the treatment. The Fraser Institute intends to assist those seeking treatment, and those evaluating waiting times, by providing comprehensive data on the entire wait a person seeking treatment can expect. Accordingly, the Institute measures the time between the decision of the specialist that treatment is required and treatment being received as well as the time between general practitioner referral and consultation with a specialist.

Alberta

The Alberta Wait Times Reporting web site defines a wait time as "the time between the decision date (when a patient and physician decide that a service is required) and the date the procedure or test is performed" and is calculated using "data from people served in the three months prior to the report date" (Alberta Health and Wellness, 2011b). This calculation "excludes people who voluntarily delayed their procedure or test, had a scheduled followup, or those who received emergency care" (Alberta Health and Wellness, 2011b). The Fraser Institute reports prospective median waiting times for elective procedures from the specialist's decision to treat the patient.

There is a substantial difference between the measurement of prospective waiting times (the expected waiting time for the next patient) and retrospective waiting times (the amount of time the patient actually waited for surgery). Notably, the latter measure includes any adjustments in waiting times that were the result of a deterioration in the patient's condition (other than those that resulted in emergency care) or from adjustments that resulted from other uncontrollable factors (emergency cases using up operating room time, an earlier operating slot becoming unavailable, etc.).

Despite these differences in methodology, it appears that the prospective elective wait times from the Fraser Institute's waiting list survey are in many cases broadly similar to the retrospective elective waiting times presented on the Alberta Wait Times

Chart 8: Comparison of Waiting Times in Alberta, Specialist to Treatment, 2011 (in weeks)

Specialty/Procedure	AB Health Median Wait Time[1]	Fraser Institute Median Wait[2]
Cataract surgery, first eye only	16.0	12.0
Interventions on the eyelid	12.0	5.0
Tonsillectomy	11.0	16.0
Mastectomy: Removal of the breast	4.0	2.5
Gall bladder removal	7.0	8.0
Hernia repair	10.0	10.0 (General Surgery) 8.0 (Urology)
Interventions on the Large Intestine	13.0	4.0
Interventions on the Small Intestine	9.0	
Varicose vein (leg) surgery	13.0	24.0
Hysterectomy	8.0	12.0
Tubal ligation	9.0	11.8
Interventions on the Brain and Spinal Cord	9.0	7.6
Head, Nasal Cavity and Sinuses	12.0	12.0
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Urgent (April 1, 2011-June 30, 2011)[3]	1.1	3.0 (Urgent)
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Semi-Urgent (April 1, 2011-June 30, 2011)[3]	1.2	
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Scheduled (April 1, 2011-June 30, 2011)[3]	10.9	8.0 (Elective)
Heart valve surgery Urgent	1.0	2.5 (Urgent)
Heart valve surgery Semi-Urgent	10	
Heart valve surgery Non-Urgent	8.0	8.0 (Elective)
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices Urgent	1.0	0.5 (Urgent)
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices Semi-Urgent	2.0	
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices Non-Urgent	3.0	1.0 (Elective)
Referral to First Consult (Radiation Oncologist) (April 1, 2011-June 30, 2011)	2.0	2.0

[1]50th percentile wait time (weeks). Measured from time between when a patient and specialist decide that a procedure or diagnostic test is required and the date the procedure or test is performed. Wait times are for elective conditions, defined as "Urgency III" by Alberta Health and Wellness (unless specified otherwise). Data are presented for April 2011.
[2]Prospective Median Wait (weeks) for treatment after appointment with a specialist, National Waiting List Survey, 2011.
Sources: Alberta Health and Wellness (http://waittimes.alberta.ca/); and the Fraser Institute's waiting list survey.
[3] The wait time for coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG) is a measure (in weeks) from the date of cardiac catheterization to the date of surgery. When a cardiac catheterization is not performed, the wait time start date is the date of alternate imaging. If no imaging is performed, the wait time would begin at referral to surgery. Patients whose urgency rating changed during their wait time are included in volumes but not in the wait time calculations.
Sources: Alberta Health and Wellness (http://waittimes.alberta.ca/); and the Fraser Institute's waiting list survey.

Reporting web site (see chart 8). However, the Institute's measurements are notably longer than those compiled by Alberta Health and Wellness for tonsillectomies, varicose vein surgeries, hysterectomies, tubal ligations, and urgent and semi-urgent coronary artery bypass grafts.

British Columbia

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Health Services defines waiting time in such a way that its estimates are shorter than those in this survey. Specifically, the ministry defines a wait for adult elective-surgery as the interval beginning "when the operating room booking information for a case is received by the hospital" and ending "when either the surgery is performed; or, the case is removed from the wait list for reasons determined by the surgeon and the patient" (British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2011b).[8] Not only does this definition omit waiting time between GP and specialist (which the Institute's survey includes in the total), but it also understates the patient's actual waiting time between seeing a specialist and receiving treatment because it will not include any delays between the decision to treat the patient and the formal booking/recording for that patient. In addition, because some hospitals only book a few months ahead, this method of measuring waiting lists likely omits a substantial fraction of patients with waits beyond the booking period (see Ramsay, 1998).

These differences in methodology suggest that the wait times published on the BC Ministry of Health Services' web site may be substantially shorter than those measured by the Fraser Institute. However, in years past, the ministry's wait times have also been found to be remarkably low when compared to the number of procedures actually completed and the number of patients reported to be waiting for treatment.

Charts 9 and 10 show that the wait times recently presented on the ministry's website continue to be potentially inaccurate.

For example, the ministry reports a waiting time of 5.3 weeks for plastic surgery for the three months ending April 30. The web site also shows 3,805 patients waiting for surgery at that time (see charts 9 and 10). In order for the waiting time for the next patient placed on the waiting list to be 5.3 weeks, the province would have to provide about 718 procedures per week, approximately four times the number of surgeries delivered weekly during the 90 days prior to April 30 (see chart 9).

Either there are fewer people waiting, significantly more surgeries being completed, or the government's number of a 5.3-week wait for plastic surgery is incorrect. Specialty by specialty, month in and month out, the median wait figures reported by the ministry remain consistently, and surprisingly, lower than expected given the

8 The Surgical Patient Registry in BC allows health authorities to collect information about the dates that patients have identified as periods of time during which they are unavailable for surgery. These time periods are deducted from the patient's wait time for surgery.

number of patients waiting and the number of procedures that can reasonably be expected to be performed per week. Chart 9 provides information on the current number of patients waiting for surgery, the Fraser Institute's estimates of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting, and the number of procedures completed in the 90 days preceding April 30, 2011. Chart 10 shows the ministry's published waiting times, the "expected" waiting time for the next patient placed on the waiting list using the number of patients waiting, the number of procedures actually provided weekly, and the Fraser Institute's median waiting time measurements.

For the three months ending April 30, 2011, the government's reported median wait averaged about 46 percent of the "expected" wait, ranging from 23 percent (for

Chart 9: Number of Patients Waiting for Care in British Columbia in 2011

Specialty/ Procedure	Patients Waiting[1]	Fraser Institute Estimate	Patients Served in Previous 90 days (proximate period)[2]	Procedures per week
Plastic Surgery	3,805	3,573	2,240	172
Gynaecology	7,361	5,129	7,293	561
Ophthalmology	15,282	11,897	14,915	1147
Cataract Surgery	13,787	9,635	13,170	1013
Corneal Transplant	389[3a]	237	207[3b]	16
Otolaryngology	6,162	3,735	2,684	206
General Surgery	11,449	11,950	10,471	805
Cholecystectomy	1,617	1,270	1,495	115
Neurosurgery	1,623	1,489	1,264	97
Orthopaedic Surgery	16,627	16,568	9,366	720
Hip Replacement	2,020	10,386[4]	1,176	90
Knee Replacement	3,905		1,765	136
Urology	4,755	5,077	5,556	427
Radiation Oncology	261[3a]	36	2,965[3c]	228

[1]Count as at April 30, 2011.
[2]Cases completed in 3 months prior to April 30, 2011.
[3a]Count as at March 31, 2011.
[3b]Cases completed in 3 months prior to March 31, 2011.
[3c]Cases completed in 3 months prior to Jan 31, 2011.
[4]Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)
Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health (2011a); and the Fraser Institute's hospital waiting list survey.

Chart 10: Comparison of Reported Waiting Times in British Columbia, Specialist to Treatment in 2011 (in weeks)

Specialty/Procedure	BC Health Median Wait[1]	Implied 2010 Expected Wait[2]	Fraser Institute Median Wait[3]
Plastic Surgery	5.3	22.1	22.1
Gynaecology	4.6	13.1	11.3
Ophthalmology	6.4	13.3	9.8
Cataract Surgery	7.0	13.6	10.5
Cornea Transplant	20.4[4a]	24.4	24.0
Otolaryngology	9.1	29.8	13.8
General Surgery	4.0	14.2	7.3
Cholecystectomy	4.3	14.1	8.0
Neurosurgery	3.9	16.7	13.0
Orthopaedic Surgery	10.0	23.1	22.0
Hip Replacement Surgery	14.0	22.3	26.0[5]
Knee Replacement Surgery	16.0	28.8	
Urology	4.0	11.1	5.4
Radiation Oncology	1.1[4b]	1.1	1.6

[1]Median wait for 3 months ending April 30, 2011.
[2]Number of weeks to exhaust the list of patients waiting.
[3]Prospective median wait, national hospital waiting list survey, 2011.
[4a]Median wait for 3 months ending March 31, 2011.
[4b]Median Wait for 3 months ending Jan 31, 2011.
[5]Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)
Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health (2011a); and the Fraser Institute's hospital waiting list survey.

neurosurgery) to 96 percent (for radiation oncology).[9]The Institute's median wait time data, meanwhile, averages about 83 percent of the "expected" wait.

It should be noted that the BC Ministry of Health Services has, in years past, found its counts of patients waiting for treatment to be highly problematic. For example, some patients had already been treated and not removed from waiting lists (Barua et al., 2010). This suggests that the "expected" wait may be overstating the wait times in British Columbia. However, the number of patients waiting for treatment would have to drop to about half of the current reported level, on average, in order for the ministry's measurements of waiting times to be consistent with the number of patients

9 These percentages are calculated from exact calculated "expected" wait times. The "expected wait time" is rounded for inclusion in the table.

waiting and procedures being performed. In other words, the true patient experience in British Columbia likely lies somewhere between the "expected" wait estimated above and the wait time reported by the ministry, which is precisely where the wait times and estimates of procedures for which patients are waiting produced by the Fraser Institute generally lie.

Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) wait list web site provides measures of waiting times from the provincial registry for surgeries in most areas of Saskatchewan. The measures presented by Saskatchewan are for non-emergent surgeries and measure the wait from "the date that the Regional Health Authority receives the booking form from the surgeon until the date that the surgery is performed." As noted above, this methodology differs significantly from that used by the Fraser Institute.

One difference between the wait times presented here and those available on the SSCN website is that between measuring at the time a new patient is seen by the specialist, and when the booking for the procedure is actually made. A number of systemic delays can occur between the time the patient is seen by a specialist and the time a booking is made. The first is that there is often a delay to order, complete, and analyze test results (in particular, imaging scans). Another delay relates to the fact that there may be a wait list to make the actual booking. A telephone survey of Saskatchewan physicians conducted by the authors of *Waiting Your Turn* in 2002 revealed that at least some of the physicians did not place their elective patients on the government waiting list until the patients became urgent cases. Thus, waiting times that measure from booking time to actual procedure will not capture the waiting times for testing and any delays in booking that occur.

The crucial difference between the two measures, however, is the inclusion of urgent surgeries. The SSCN website measures waiting times for all non-emergent surgeries (i.e., urgent and elective surgery waits are measured), while *Waiting Your Turn* measures waiting times for only elective surgeries (with the exception of cardiovascular surgery where emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured). This means that urgent wait times (which are significantly shorter than elective wait times) are included in the wait time measures available on the SSCN website, but not in those measured by the Fraser Institute.

The resulting conclusion is that the numbers available on the SSCN website are not directly comparable to those measured in *Waiting Your Turn.*

It is, however, possible to construct a measure from SSCN data that is more comparable with that measured by the Fraser Institute. In addition to the non-emergent median wait time measures published on its web site, SSCN also provides data on the proportion of patients (non-emergent) that were treated in several time frames: 0-3

Chart 11: Comparison between Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) wait list measures and Waiting Your Turn 2011

Specialty/Procedure	SSCN Median Wait[1]	SSCN Elective Wait[2]	Fraser Institute Median
Plastic Surgery	9.1	36.0	29.5
Gynaecology	5.0	24.8	9.4
Ophthalmology	5.9	20.5	12.5
Otolaryngology	7.2	28.7	36.3
General Surgery	2.9	17.8	28.6
Neurosurgery	6.9	29.0	12.1
Orthopaedic Surgery	14.1	28.0	36.9
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.6	7.2	0.9 (Urgent) 4.7 (Elective)
Urology	3.9	20.6	12.5
All Procedures/Specialties	5.7	25.1	19.0

[1]SSCN non-emergent median wait times are retrospectively measured for procedures performed between February 01, 2011 and July 31, 2011.
[2]Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network data are available as a proportion of patients who received their surgery within certain time frames. SSCN measures non-emergent surgeries, which includes both urgent and elective treatments. In an attempt to eliminate the measure of urgent procedures, the shortest time frame is removed to allow better comparability with the waiting times presented in *Waiting Your Turn*. More specifically, the SSCN elective wait presented here is a weighted average measure based on the mid-point of each time frame other than the shortest time frame. For example, 40% of patients in Saskatchewan waited less than 3 weeks for Orthopaedic Surgery, 8% waited 4 to 6 weeks, 15% waited 7 weeks to 3 months, 31% waited 4 to 12 months, 5% waited 13 to 18 months, and 1% waited more than 18 months. Removing the percentage of patients treated in the 0-3 week time frame, and taking the midpoints of the remaining time frames to be 5, 10, 34.7, 67.2, and 82 weeks respectively gives an average elective waiting time of 28.0 weeks.
Sources: Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list web site; the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey; and calculations by authors.

weeks, 4-6 weeks, 7 weeks to 3 months, 4-12 months, 13-18 months, and more than 18 months. By eliminating the proportion of patients treated in the shortest time frame (0-3 weeks), and by taking the mid-points of the remaining times to be 5, 10, 34.7, 67.2, and 82 weeks respectively, it is possible to construct a weighted average "elective" wait time measure for Saskatchewan that should be more comparable with the elective wait times measured by the Fraser Institute.[10] The calculated SSCN elective wait time mea-

10 The authors of this report acknowledge the possibility that some elective procedures may have been performed in the 0-3 week time frame, and that their elimination from the analysis may result in a calculated elective wait that may be larger than the true wait for elective procedures. At the same time, assigning an 82 week wait for patients waiting *any* amount of time more than 18 months may result in a calculated elective wait time that may be smaller than the true wait for elective procedures.

Chart 12: Comparison between patients waiting according to Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) wait list and procedures for which patients are waiting estimate from Waiting Your Turn, 2011

Specialty	SSCN Count**	FI Estimate
Plastic Surgery	1,141	706
Gynaecology	2,764	1,305
Ophthalmology	4,195	3,979
Otolaryngology	2,610	3,611
General Surgery	2,446	12,795
Neurosurgery	613	414
Orthopaedic Surgery	6,359	7,222
Cardiovascular Surgery	34	43
Urology	928	2,860
Overall Count	23,671	59,947

**SSCN Patients waiting count at July 31, 2011.
Sources: Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list website and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey.

sure is shown in chart 11. This comparison suggests that the Fraser Institute's measures neither necessarily overstate nor necessarily understate the actual patient experience in Saskatchewan. Notably, only in the cases of otolaryngology, general surgery, and orthopaedic surgery are the Institute's estimates longer than the SSCN elective wait time measure.

With respect to the estimates of procedures for which patients are waiting, only in about four of the nine specialties compared (and the overall count), are the Fraser Institute's estimates notably larger than the SSCN's counts of patients waiting for care (see chart 12). Note, however, that much of this difference may arise from differences in what is being measured: the SSCN's counts include only patients waiting for procedures done in operating rooms and do not count patients who will be treated in other locations such as procedure rooms, while the Fraser Institute's estimates include counts for all patients treated in hospitals.

Verification and comparison of earlier data with independent sources

The waiting list data can also be verified by comparison with independently computed estimates, primarily found in academic journals. There exist 95 independent waiting time estimates that can be compared with recent Fraser Institute figures. In 59 of the 95 cases, the Institute figures lie below the comparison values. In only 31 instances does the Institute value exceed the comparison value, and in five cases they are identical. This evidence strongly suggests that the Institute's measurements are not biased upward, but, if anything, may be biased downward, understating actual waiting times. (For further explanation, see *Waiting Your Turn* 2009).

Pan-Canadian benchmarks

Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments agreed to a set of common benchmarks for medically necessary treatment on December 12, 2005 (Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005). Chart 13 compares those benchmarks for which a similar comparator exists in *Waiting Your Turn*. Two observations arise from this comparison. First, Canada's physicians tend to have a lower threshold for reasonable wait times than do Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments. Second, median wait times in many provinces are already within the benchmarks set by

Chart 13: Pan-Canadian Benchmark Wait Times and Waiting Your Turn 2011

Procedure (Pan-Canadian Benchmark/ Waiting Your Turn)	Pan-Canadian Benchmark Wait Time	National Median Wait Time[1] (Range of Provincial Median Wait Times) in weeks	National Median Reasonable Wait Time[1] (Range of Provincial Reasonable Median Wait Times) in weeks
Radiation Therapy/Radiation Oncology	within 4 weeks of patients being ready to treat	2.6 (1.6-3.8)	3.3 (2.0-7.4)
Hip Replacements	within 26 weeks	21.5 (16.0-49.0)	12.6 (12.0-21.0)
Knee Replacements	within 26 weeks	21.5 (16.0-49.0)	12.6 (12.0-21.0)
Cataract Surgery	within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk	11.1 (9.0-27.3)	10.7 (7.0-14.0)
Cardiac Bypass Surgery	Level I within 2 weeks/ Level II within 6 weeks/ Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 0.1 (0.0-0.5)/ Urgent: 1.4 (0.5-5.8)/ Elective: 6.4 (3.0-38.5)	Emergent: 0.1 (0.0-0.5)/ Urgent: 0.9 (0.3-3.0)/ Elective: 7.3 (4.5-26.5)

[1]These wait times were produced for individual procedures using the same methodology used to produce national median wait times for medical specialties described above under "Methodology."
Sources: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005 and the Fraser Institute's National Waiting List Survey.

governments in Canada, which means that according to these benchmarks, more than 50 percent of patients in these provinces are already being treated in a time frame that provincial governments consider "reasonable."[11]

11 Note that although the median wait time is less than the benchmark wait time, this does not mean that provinces have already met their targets. The pan-Canadian benchmark wait times apply to all patient cases, while the median wait time is the time by which 50 percent of patients have been treated and 50 percent of patients are still waiting for treatment.

Change in estimation methodology for Alberta and Quebec

Waiting Your Turn weights medians based on data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information's (CIHI) Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS). This year's report incorporates an improvement in the methodology used to weight medians and estimate the number of procedures for which patients are waiting across provinces.

In previous years, Quebec did not provide CIHI with any (neither acute, nor same-day) discharge data, while Alberta did not provide CIHI with discharge data for same-day surgeries. As a result, the authors made a pro-rated estimate of procedures performed in Alberta and Quebec using the 1999-2000 number of hospitalizations from data published by CIHI in their Hospital Morbidity Database.

Subsequent to Quebec's submission of acute discharge data to the DAD this year, the authors are now able to make a more up-to-date pro-rated estimate of the same-day procedures performed in Alberta and Quebec using the now-complete acute discharge database.

In order to examine the impact of this change in methodology on this year's results, we conducted a basic sensitivity analysis by recalculating medians using the previous years' methodology for weighting, and comparing them to this year's results.

We found that, when weighted using the 1999-2000 data from the Hospital Morbidity Database, the total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner and delivery of elective treatment by a specialist (averaged across all 12 specialties and 10 provinces surveyed), was 18.8 weeks (compared to 19.0 weeks). In Alberta, the median wait time was 20.6 weeks (compared to 21.1 weeks), while in Quebec, the median wait time was 19.7 weeks (compared to 19.9 weeks). By using more recent and more detailed data, this revision in the estimation methodology more accurately reflects the true state of waiting in Alberta and Quebec. It also more accurately measures national wait times by better capturing the proportion of surgeries done in these two provinces.

The results of the sensitivity analysis indicate that due to the updated methodology, this year's calculated national wait time increased by about 0.2 weeks. This suggests that estimates in previous years may have slightly underestimated the true wait patients in Canada face.

Conclusion

The 2011 *Waiting Your Turn* survey indicates that waiting times for elective medical treatment across the provinces have risen from those in 2010, and have reached a new high since measurement began in 1993. This survey also reveals that wait times in Canada are longer than what physicians consider to be clinically reasonable.

From an economic standpoint, a study by Stokes and Somerville (2008) found that the cumulative total lost economic output that represents the cost of waiting for treatment for total joint replacement surgery, cataract surgery, coronary artery bypass graft surgery, and MRI scans in 2007 was an estimated $14.8 billion. More recently, Esmail (2011) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately $1,105 in 2010 if only hours during the normal working week were considered "lost," and as much as $3,384 if all hours of the week (excluding 8 hours of sleep per night) were considered "lost."

Further, there is a significant body of medical literature identifying adverse consequences from prolonged waiting (see *Waiting Your Turn* 2009).

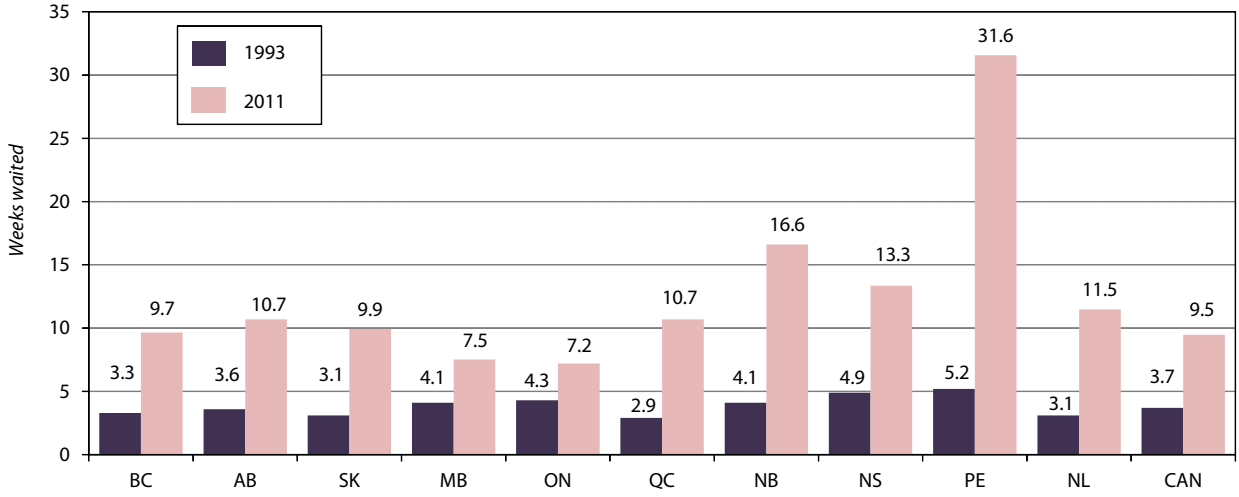
This year's survey of specialists also found that an estimated 1.0 percent of patients (46,159 people, as calculated by the authors) received elective treatment in another country during 2010/11.

Thus, despite high levels of health expenditure and provincial wait time strategies, it is clear that patients in Canada are waiting too long to receive treatment.

Selected graphs

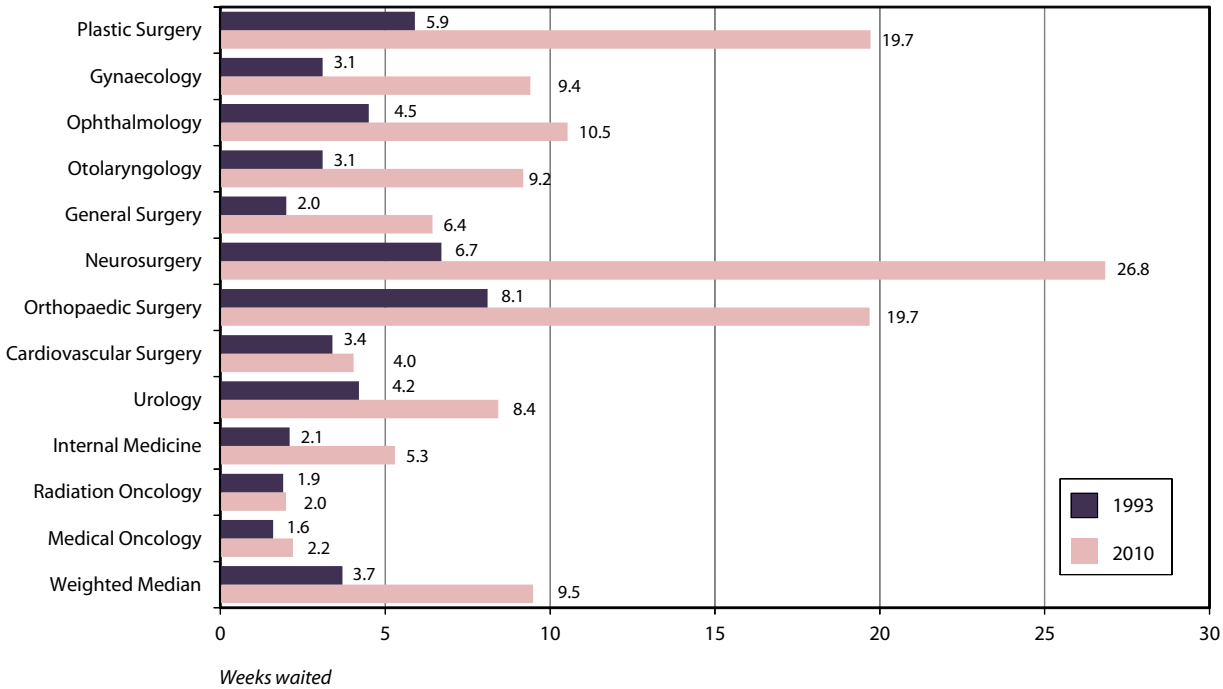
Graphs 1–6: Median Actual Waiting Times, 1993 and 2011
Graphs 7–8: Median Reasonable Waiting Times, 1994 and 2011
Graphs 9–19: Actual versus Reasonable Waiting Times, 1994 through 2011, by Province

Graph 1: Median Wait Between Referral by GP and Appointment with Specialist, by Province, 1993 and 2011



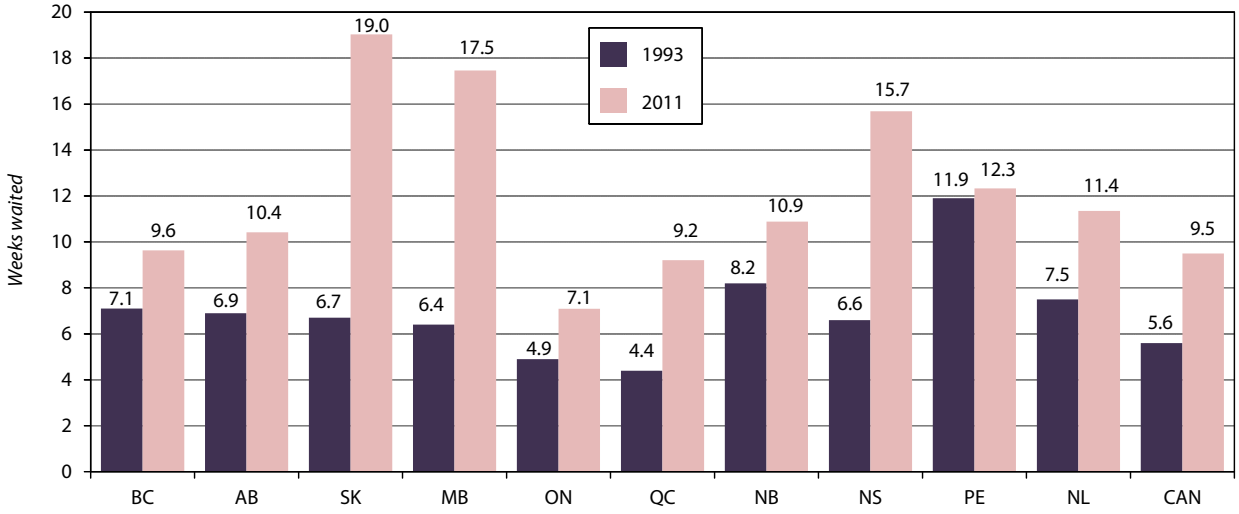
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 2: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 1993 and 2011



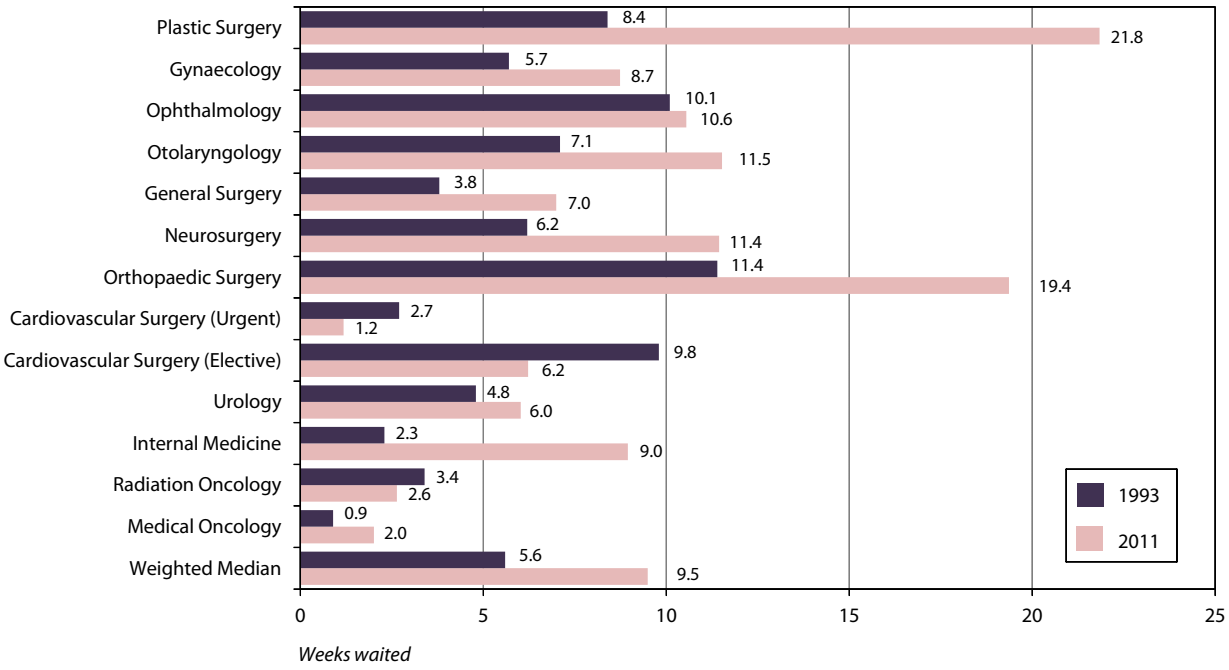
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 3: Median Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Province, 1993 and 2011



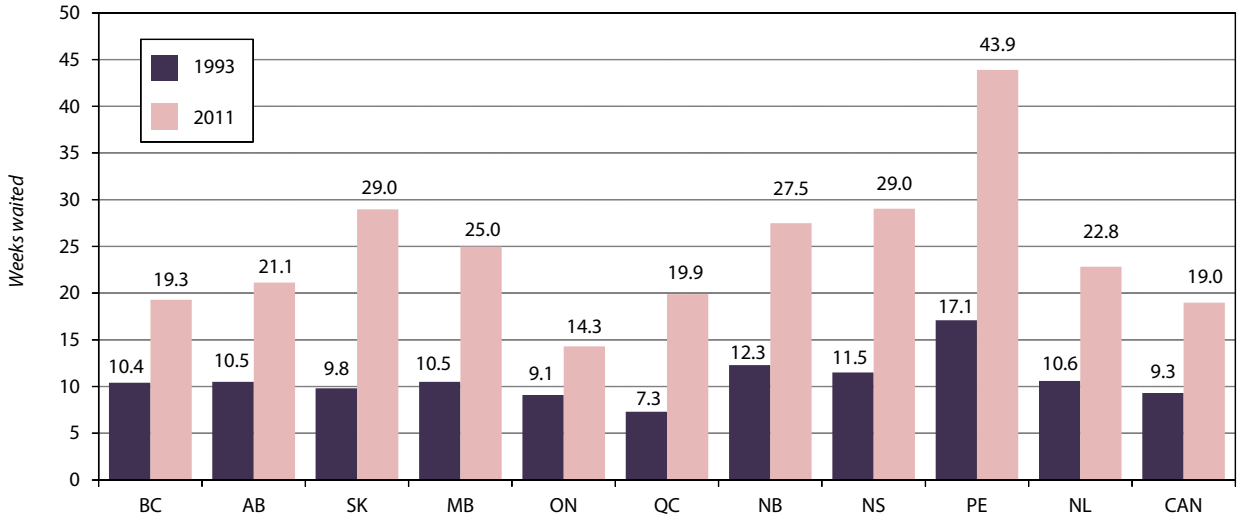
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 4: Median Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Specialty, 1993 and 2011



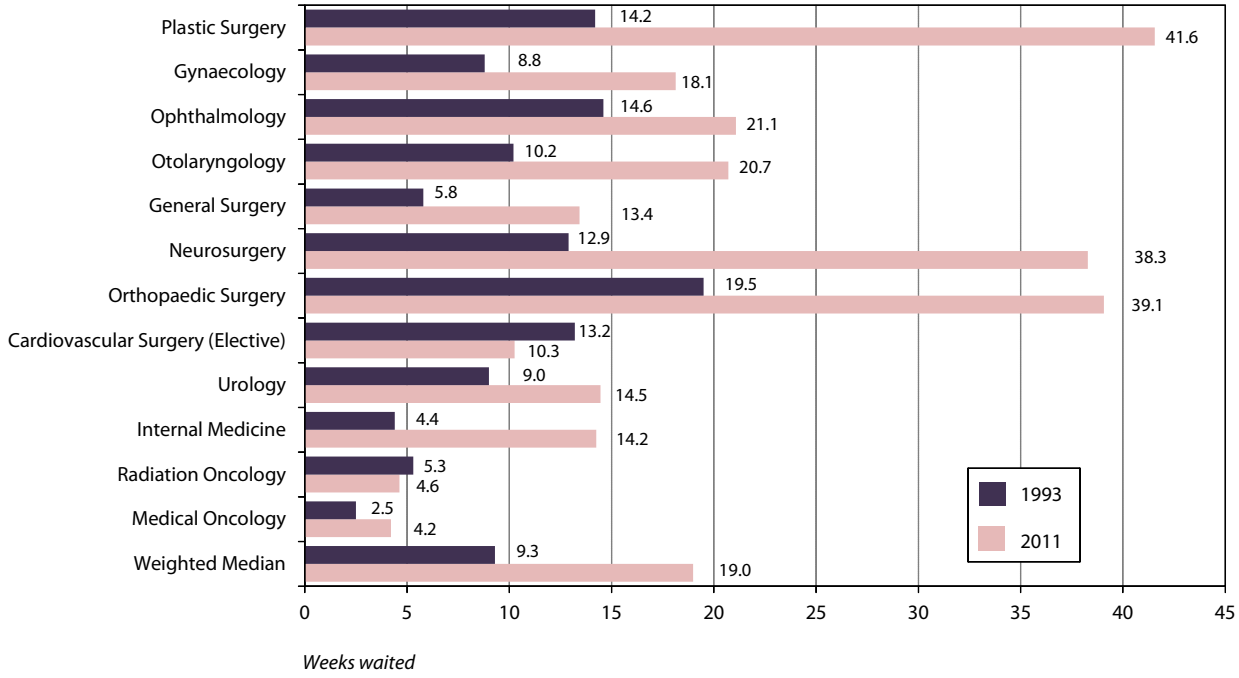
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 5: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Treatment, by Province, 1993 and 2011



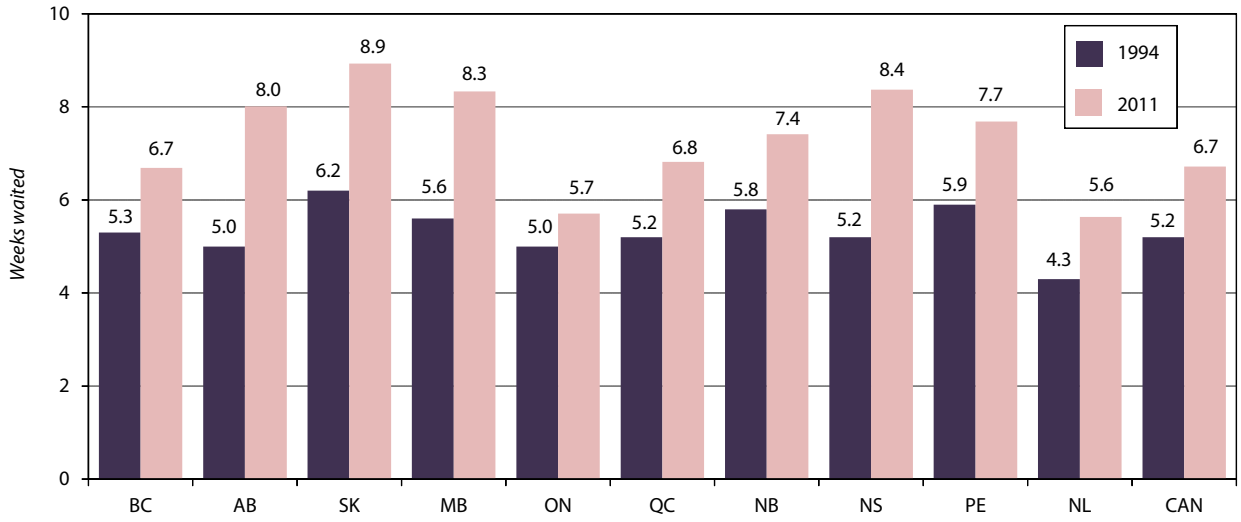
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 6: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Treatment, by Specialty, 1993 and 2011



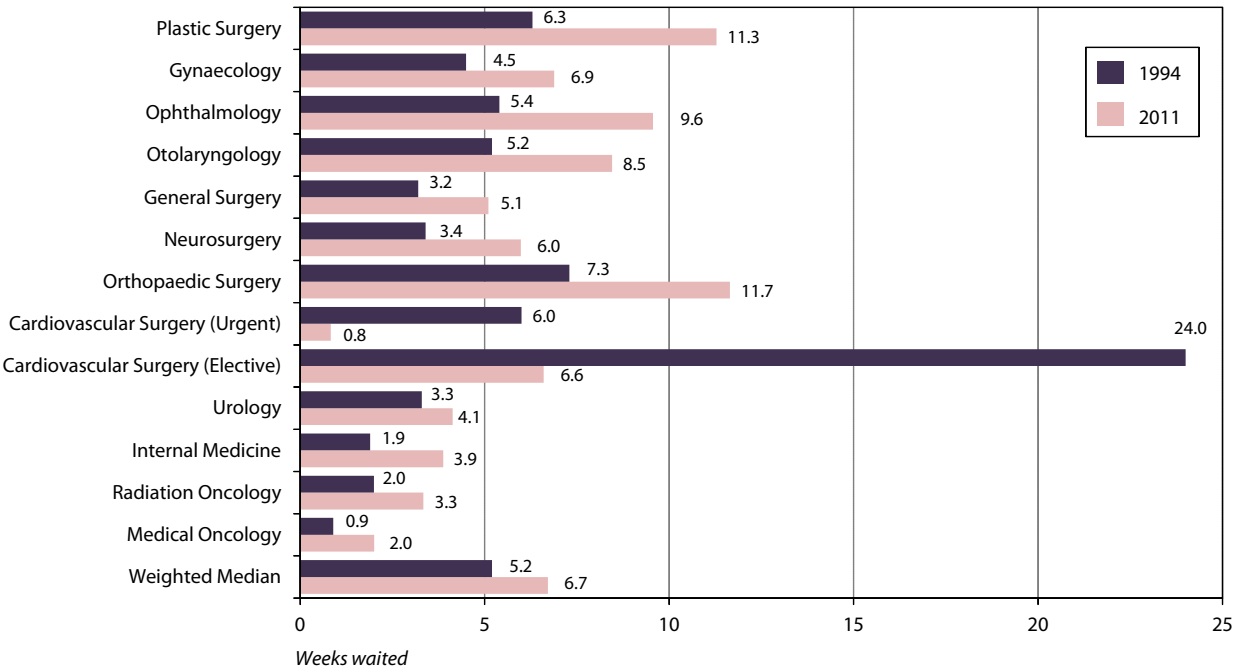
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 7: Median Reasonable Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Province, 1994 and 2011



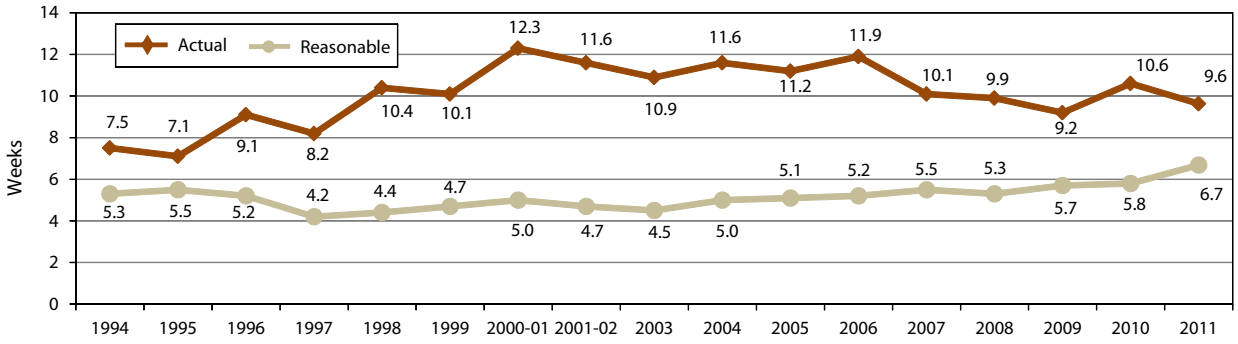
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 8: Median Reasonable Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Specialty, 1994 and 2011



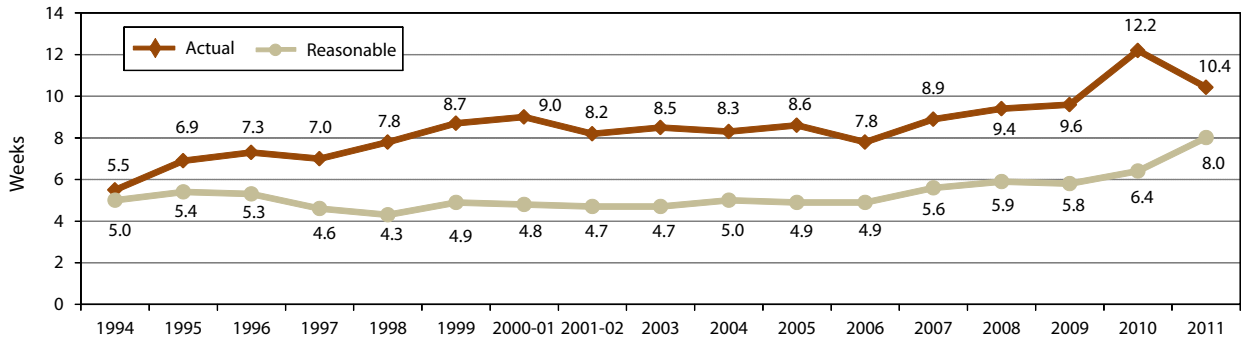
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2011; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 9: British Columbia—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



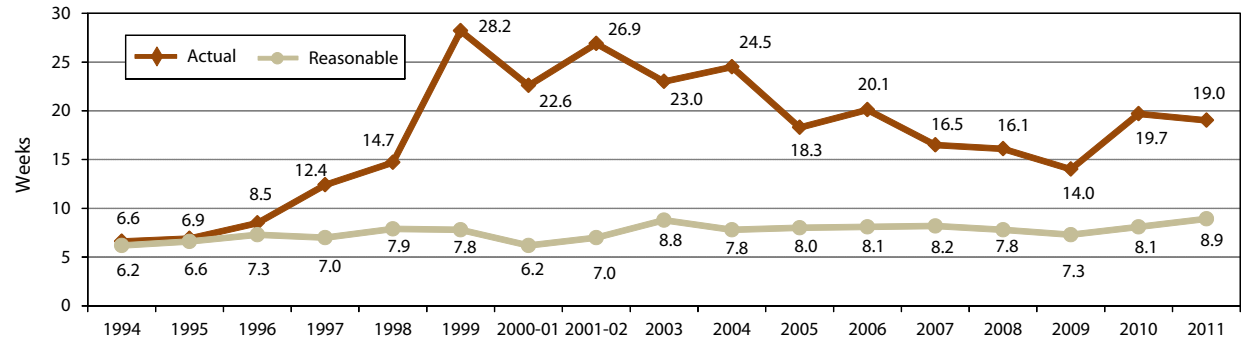
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 10: Alberta—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



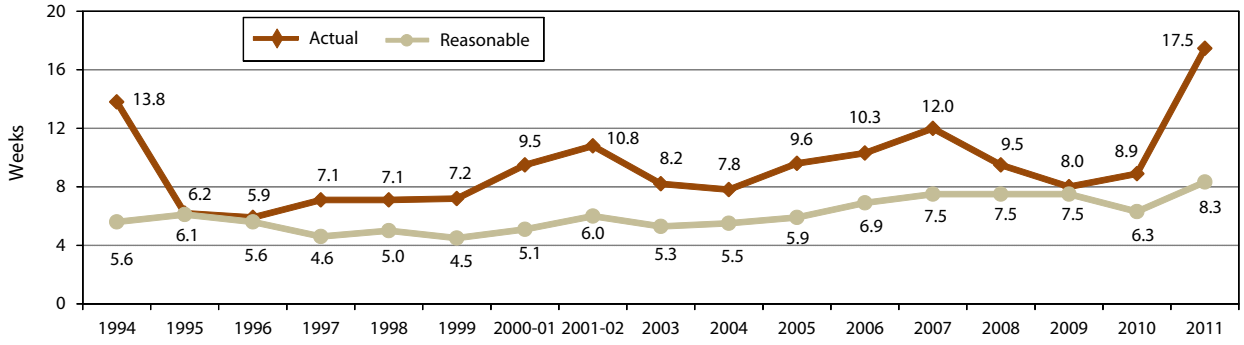
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 11: Saskatchewan—Actual Versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



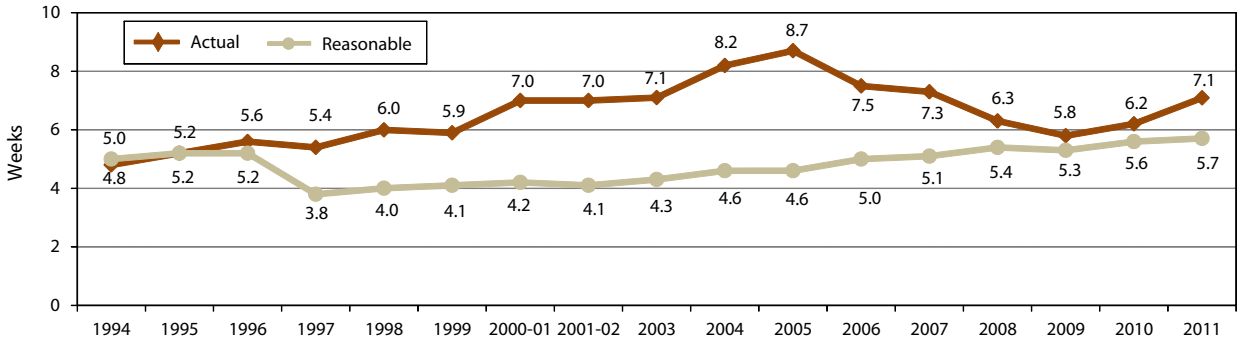
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 12: Manitoba—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



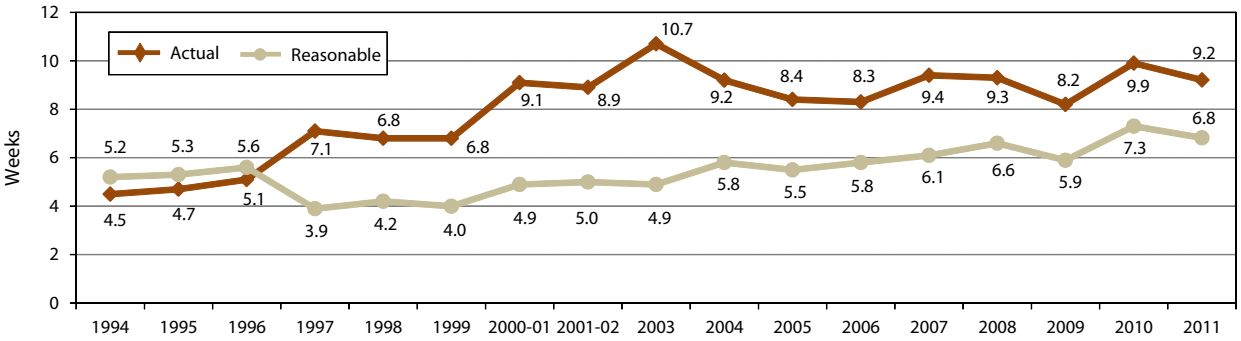
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 13: Ontario—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



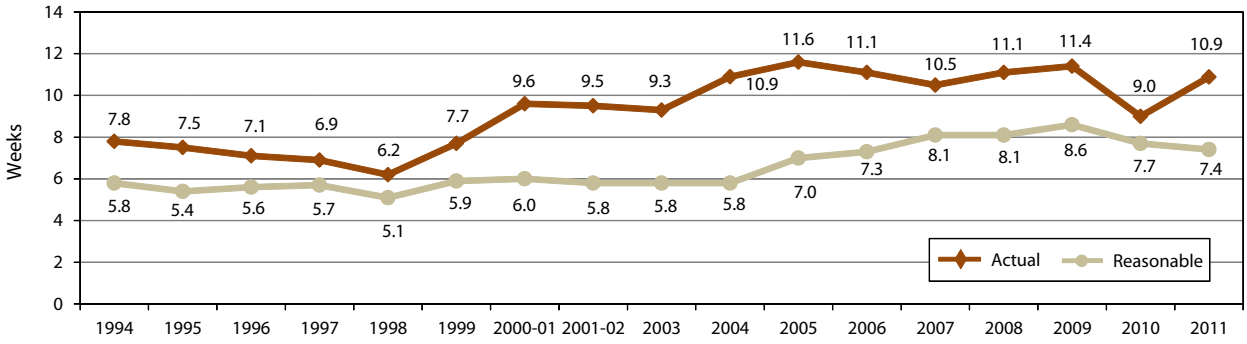
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 14: Quebec—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



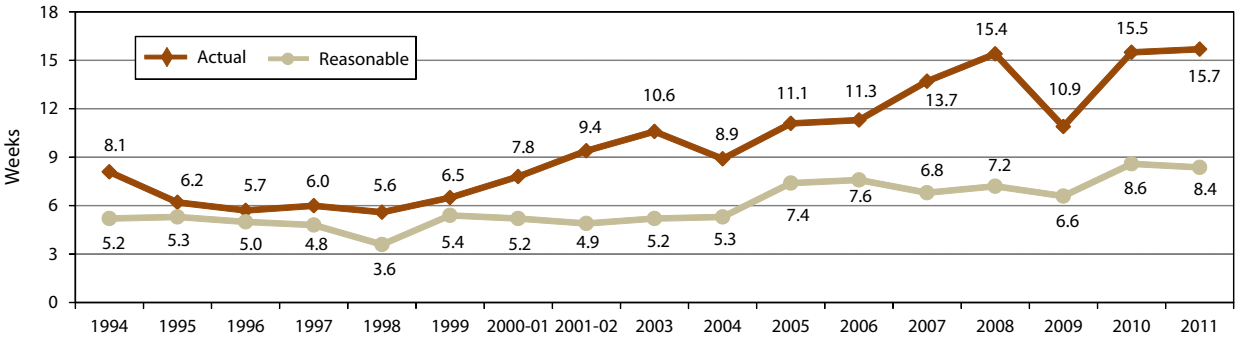
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 15: New Brunswick—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



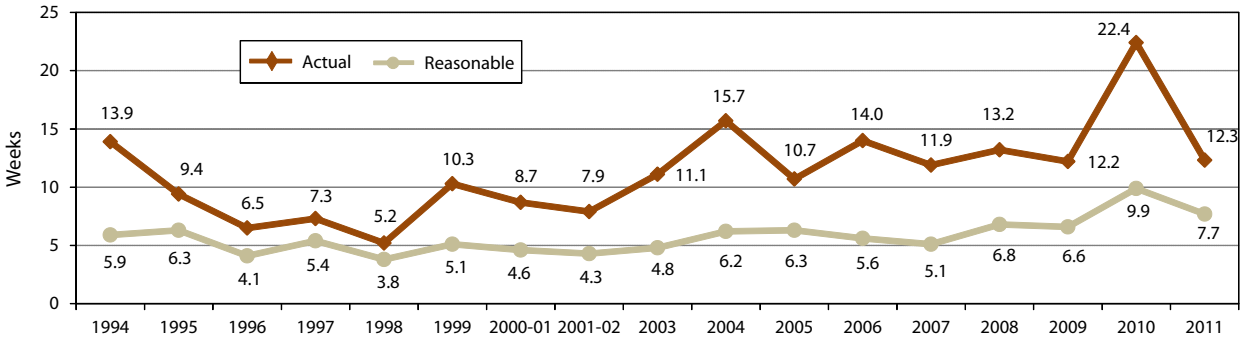
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 16: Nova Scotia—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



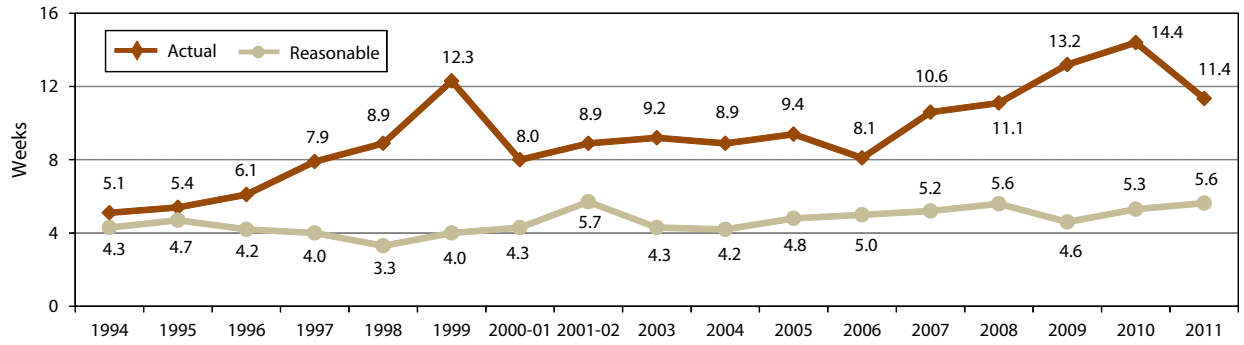
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



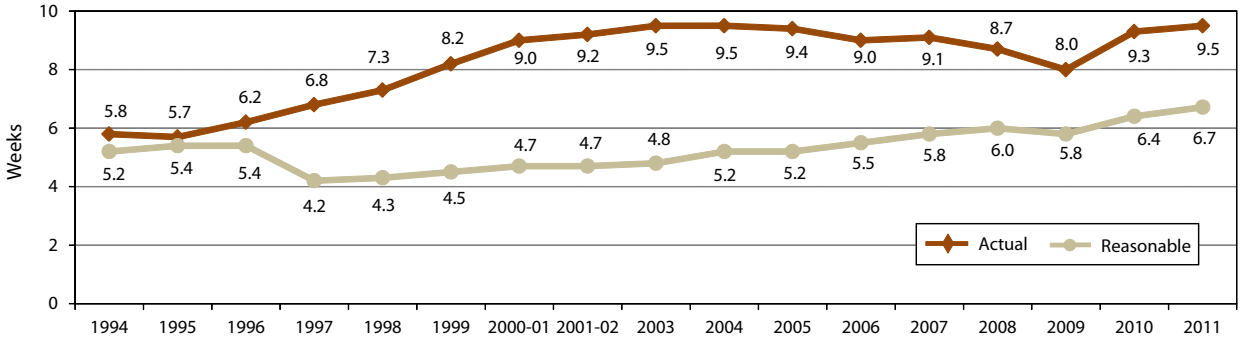
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Graph 19: Canada—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2011



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2011.

Selected data tables

Tables 1a–1c: Summary of Responses

Table 2: Median Total Expected Waiting Time from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Province and Specialty

Table 3: Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP, by Province and Specialty

Table 4: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Province and Specialty (Summary)

Tables 5a–5l: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty

Table 6: Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2011 and 2010

Table 7: Frequency Distribution of Survey Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province

Table 8: Median Reasonable Wait to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Province and Specialty (Summary)

Tables 9a–9l: Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks), by Specialty

Table 10: Comparison between the Median Expected Waiting Time and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties

Table 11: Average Percentage of Patients Receiving Treatment Outside of Canada, by Province and Specialty

Table 12: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Province and Specialty (Summary)

Tables 13a–13l: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty

Table 14: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist—Procedures per 100,000 Population (Summary)

Table 15: Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2011 and 2010

Table 16a: Acute Inpatient Procedures, 2009-10

Table 16b: Same Day Procedures, 2009-10

Table 1a: Summary of Responses, 2011 Response Rates (Percentages)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	27%	19%	56%	23%	16%	12%	31%	33%	0%	0%	18%
Gynaecology	19%	18%	18%	15%	17%	10%	16%	18%	25%	15%	16%
Ophthalmology	21%	25%	35%	25%	19%	14%	35%	25%	40%	15%	19%
Otolaryngology	22%	26%	43%	30%	22%	12%	29%	40%	50%	10%	20%
General Surgery	21%	21%	39%	25%	20%	8%	24%	51%	60%	18%	18%
Neurosurgery	31%	27%	67%	14%	10%	6%	13%	10%	—	67%	17%
Orthopaedic Surgery	20%	20%	39%	20%	20%	10%	38%	33%	75%	29%	19%
Cardiovascular Surgery	17%	17%	33%	23%	13%	9%	18%	12%	100%	20%	14%
Urology	23%	39%	90%	12%	21%	8%	35%	29%	50%	29%	21%
Internal Medicine	18%	10%	42%	7%	9%	5%	29%	25%	17%	32%	11%
Radiation Oncology	4%	7%	0%	27%	10%	11%	57%	10%	100%	25%	11%
Medical Oncology	10%	0%	0%	13%	6%	5%	50%	17%	100%	14%	7%
Total	19%	18%	38%	18%	15%	9%	29%	28%	43%	22%	16%

Table 1b: Summary of Responses, 2011 Number of Responses

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	17	8	5	3	28	13	4	3	0	0	81
Gynaecology	35	28	8	7	118	42	5	8	2	4	257
Ophthalmology	32	25	7	7	69	40	7	10	2	2	201
Otolaryngology	17	11	3	6	45	23	5	8	1	1	120
General Surgery	36	26	14	13	110	38	8	19	3	4	271
Neurosurgery	10	8	6	1	8	4	1	1	—	2	41
Orthopaedic Surgery	38	25	11	8	92	32	12	12	3	4	237
Cardiovascular Surgery	9	6	4	3	20	9	2	2	1	1	57
Urology	16	13	9	2	49	12	6	5	1	2	115
Internal Medicine	45	26	22	6	95	23	8	14	1	7	247
Radiation Oncology	2	2	0	3	16	10	4	1	1	1	40
Medical Oncology	6	0	0	1	9	7	2	2	1	1	29
Total	263	178	89	60	659	253	64	85	16	29	1,696

Table 1c: Summary of Responses, 2011 Number of Questionnaires Mailed Out

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	63	42	9	13	180	108	13	9	2	1	440
Gynaecology	186	157	45	47	680	421	31	44	8	26	1,645
Ophthalmology	155	101	20	28	369	281	20	40	5	13	1,032
Otolaryngology	76	43	7	20	206	200	17	20	2	10	601
General Surgery	168	125	36	51	558	468	33	37	5	22	1,503
Neurosurgery	32	30	9	7	78	69	8	10	—	3	246
Orthopaedic Surgery	187	122	28	41	455	315	32	36	4	14	1,234
Cardiovascular Surgery	54	35	12	13	152	99	11	17	1	5	399
Urology	71	33	10	17	231	152	17	17	2	7	557
Internal Medicine	250	257	53	85	1,084	454	28	57	6	22	2,296
Radiation Oncology	48	30	5	11	166	94	7	10	1	4	376
Medical Oncology	60	33	1	8	146	136	4	12	1	7	408
Total	1,350	1,008	235	341	4,305	2,797	221	309	37	134	10,737

Table 2: Median Total Expected Waiting Time from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Specialty, 2011 (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	46.1	63.8	113.5	39.1	20.8	27.7	31.1	297.1	—	—	41.6
Gynaecology	19.3	23.0	13.4	11.9	15.3	19.0	27.1	6.6	42.0	37.3	18.1
Ophthalmology	17.8	18.2	22.5	33.0	16.9	24.3	44.1	34.0	26.4	39.1	21.1
Otolaryngology	19.3	31.6	42.3	18.9	18.5	15.7	14.8	21.9	45.8	13.2	20.7
General Surgery	15.3	14.6	37.9	22.4	8.5	15.3	8.5	13.6	23.4	7.6	13.4
Neurosurgery	39.0	22.6	18.1	5.4	53.2	21.7	70.1	21.9	—	51.3	38.3
Orthopaedic Surgery	48.5	44.5	52.9	40.3	27.5	42.2	51.3	59.2	90.1	48.8	39.1
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	10.9	6.0	6.0	38.3	6.9	6.5	9.5	53.8	20.0	7.0	10.3
Urology	12.4	17.9	—	12.9	12.4	11.4	28.7	30.4	72.6	26.7	14.5
Internal Medicine	11.2	12.8	16.2	24.9	10.0	20.1	9.5	12.9	6.0	22.6	14.2
Radiation Oncology	3.6	5.8	—	5.1	4.0	5.6	4.4	5.6	2.7	4.8	4.6
Medical Oncology	5.2	—	—	5.0	4.0	3.5	3.3	7.5	1.1	10.0	4.2
Weighted Median	19.3	21.1	29.0	25.0	14.3	19.9	27.5	29.0	43.9	22.8	19.0

* Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding

Table 3: Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP, by Specialty, 2011 (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	24.0	24.0	84.0	20.0	10.0	12.0	14.0	156.0	—	—	19.7
Gynaecology	8.0	13.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	16.0	2.0	35.0	23.0	9.4
Ophthalmology	8.0	8.0	10.0	7.0	8.0	14.0	32.0	12.0	12.5	20.0	10.5
Otolaryngology	5.5	20.0	6.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	7.5	30.0	4.0	9.2
General Surgery	8.0	8.0	9.3	8.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	6.0	20.0	4.5	6.4
Neurosurgery	26.0	15.0	6.0	3.0	38.5	15.0	52.0	8.0	—	48.0	26.8
Orthopaedic Surgery	26.5	25.5	16.0	15.0	12.0	24.0	31.0	24.0	60.0	30.0	19.7
Cardiovascular Surgery	2.5	1.5	1.3	3.0	2.8	3.0	5.0	37.8	12.0	2.0	4.0
Urology	7.0	12.0	—	8.0	8.0	6.0	14.0	16.0	54.0	10.0	8.4
Internal Medicine	4.5	4.0	7.0	3.0	4.0	8.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	5.3
Radiation Oncology	2.0	2.0	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	3.0	0.5	2.0	2.0
Medical Oncology	2.3	—	—	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.3	4.0	1.0	6.0	2.2
Weighted Median	9.7	10.7	9.9	7.5	7.2	10.7	16.6	13.3	31.6	11.5	9.5

Table 4: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 2011 (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	22.1	39.8	29.5	19.1	10.8	15.7	17.1	141.1	—	—	21.8
Gynaecology	11.3	10.0	9.4	5.9	7.3	9.0	11.1	4.6	7.0	14.3	8.7
Ophthalmology	9.8	10.2	12.5	26.0	8.9	10.3	12.1	22.0	13.9	19.1	10.6
Otolaryngology	13.8	11.6	36.3	13.9	10.5	7.7	8.8	14.4	15.8	9.2	11.5
General Surgery	7.3	6.6	28.6	14.4	4.5	7.3	4.5	7.6	3.4	3.1	7.0
Neurosurgery	13.0	7.6	12.1	2.4	14.7	6.7	18.1	13.9	—	3.3	11.4
Orthopaedic Surgery	22.0	19.0	36.9	25.3	15.5	18.2	20.3	35.2	30.1	18.8	19.4
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.4	1.6	0.9	5.3	0.6	0.7	1.7	3.9	1.5	1.4	1.2
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	8.4	4.5	4.7	35.3	4.1	3.5	4.5	16.0	8.0	5.0	6.2
Urology	5.4	5.9	12.5	4.9	4.4	5.4	14.7	14.4	18.6	16.7	6.0
Internal Medicine	6.7	8.8	9.2	21.9	6.0	12.1	4.5	6.9	2.0	16.6	9.0
Radiation Oncology	1.6	3.8	—	3.1	2.0	3.6	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.8	2.6
Medical Oncology	3.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	3.5	0.1	4.0	2.0
Weighted Median	9.6	10.4	19.0	17.5	7.1	9.2	10.9	15.7	12.3	11.4	9.5

Table 5a: Plastic Surgery, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	30.0	62.0	28.0	17.3	12.0	16.0	18.0	178.0	—	—
Neurolysis	12.0	24.0	14.0	10.0	10.0	16.0	12.0	165.0	—	—
Blepharoplasty	26.0	14.0	—	30.0	8.0	4.0	18.0	217.0	—	—
Rhinoplasty	18.0	22.0	—	27.0	8.0	12.0	18.0	152.0	—	—
Scar Revision	16.5	27.0	52.0	24.0	12.0	24.0	22.0	156.0	—	—
Hand Surgery	16.5	31.0	18.0	10.0	12.0	10.0	11.0	38.0	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	12.0	50.8	18.0	—	12.0	4.0	36.0	—	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	4.0	4.0	24.0	8.0	5.0	3.0	8.0	5.5	—	—
Weighted Median	22.1	39.8	29.5	19.1	10.8	15.7	17.1	141.1	—	—

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

Table 5b: Gynaecology, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	6.0	7.0	4.5	5.5	4.5	4.0	8.0	4.0	6.0	14.0
Tubal Ligation	16.0	11.8	12.0	6.5	8.0	12.0	14.0	4.5	6.0	19.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	13.0	12.0	12.0	6.5	9.5	11.5	13.0	5.5	6.0	12.0
Vaginal Repair	14.0	12.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	14.0	6.0	10.0	11.0
Tuboplasty	20.0	13.0	12.0	—	8.0	12.0	16.0	5.0	10.0	11.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	12.0	10.0	12.0	5.5	8.0	10.0	14.0	4.5	9.0	14.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	12.0	10.0	8.5	5.5	8.0	10.0	8.0	4.0	9.0	14.0
Weighted Median	11.3	10.0	9.4	5.9	7.3	9.0	11.1	4.6	7.0	14.3

Table 5c: Ophthalmology, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	10.5	12.0	14.0	27.3	9.0	10.0	12.0	26.0	14.0	20.0
Cornea Transplant	24.0	104.0	64.0	—	56.0	52.0	66.0	26.0	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	7.5	6.0	13.0	3.0	7.0	11.0	12.0	7.0	14.0	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	4.8	8.0	12.0	2.0	4.0	12.0	11.0	10.0	16.0	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	6.0	1.3	3.0	—	6.8	2.0	38.0	13.5	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	8.0	10.0	8.0	19.0	12.0	14.0	16.0	17.5	3.0	5.0
Strabismus	12.3	9.0	9.0	34.0	18.0	20.0	14.0	41.0	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	8.0	5.0	12.0	5.5	5.0	20.0	10.0	7.0	9.5	12.0
Glaucoma	5.0	4.0	7.0	9.5	6.0	7.5	8.0	10.0	16.0	5.0
Weighted Median	9.8	10.2	12.5	26.0	8.9	10.3	12.1	22.0	13.9	19.1

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 5d: Otolaryngology, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	5.0	3.5	8.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	4.0
Tympanoplasty	16.0	12.0	60.0	16.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	20.0	20.0	24.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	11.0	10.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	6.0	15.8	20.0	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	16.0	53.0	17.0	12.0	9.0	12.0	16.8	20.0	12.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	18.0	14.0	60.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	20.0	20.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	20.0	12.0	60.0	18.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	20.0	20.0	—
Weighted Median	13.8	11.6	36.3	13.9	10.5	7.7	8.8	14.4	15.8	9.2

Table 5e: General Surgery, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	10.0	18.0	10.0	5.0	8.0	4.0	12.0	4.5	12.0
Cholecystectomy	8.0	8.0	18.0	10.0	5.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	7.0
Colonoscopy	8.0	8.0	70.0	30.0	6.0	10.0	5.0	12.0	3.5	1.0
Intestinal Operations	5.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	5.0	2.8	2.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	6.0	11.0	9.0	11.0	3.5	8.8
Breast Biopsy	3.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.0
Mastectomy	3.0	2.5	3.0	3.3	2.5	3.0	2.0	2.3	2.5	1.5
Bronchus and Lung	—	4.0	0.0	—	4.0	2.3	—	7.5	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	10.0	—	0.0	—	4.0	18.0	—	1.0	—	—
Varicose Veins	26.0	24.0	10.0	33.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	6.0	4.0	12.0
Weighted Median	7.3	6.6	28.6	14.4	4.5	7.3	4.5	7.6	3.4	3.1

Table 5f: Neurosurgery, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolysis	12.0	10.0	10.5	2.0	12.0	—	26.0	6.0	—	4.0
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	22.0	14.0	18.0	4.0	22.0	12.0	26.0	12.0	—	3.3
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	9.0	4.5	10.0	2.0	12.0	4.0	12.0	16.0	—	2.8
Aneurysm Surgery	5.0	8.0	6.5	—	8.0	52.0	8.0	16.0	—	2.0
Carotid endarterectomy	2.0	4.0	10.0	—	2.0	3.3	4.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	13.0	7.6	12.1	2.4	14.7	6.7	18.1	13.9		3.3

Table 5g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	12.0	13.0	24.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	24.0	9.0	18.5
Removal of Pins	12.0	15.0	22.0	10.0	12.0	24.0	11.0	16.0	8.0	17.5
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	26.0	20.0	40.0	32.0	16.0	20.5	24.5	49.0	34.0	23.5
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	25.0	8.0	31.0	—	20.0	30.0	36.0	16.0	20.0	40.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	24.0	20.0	44.0	—	16.0	12.0	22.0	20.0	20.0	7.0
Digit Neuroma	12.0	17.0	40.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	17.0	16.0	14.0	5.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	26.0	19.0	36.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	21.0	24.0	20.0	23.5
Ostectomy (All Types)	26.0	38.0	60.0	32.0	20.0	12.0	15.0	38.0	78.0	7.0
Routine Spinal Instability	28.0	27.5	12.0	—	20.0	40.0	18.0	18.0	—	—
Weighted Median	22.0	19.0	36.9	25.3	15.5	18.2	20.3	35.2	30.1	18.8

Table 5h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	—	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	—	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.0	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.5	0.0	—
	Pacemaker Operations	0.6	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—
	Weighted Median	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.3	0.0	
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	2.0	3.0	1.0	5.8	0.5	1.0	4.0	—	—	1.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	2.0	2.5	1.0	5.8	1.0	1.0	4.0	—	—	1.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	2.0	2.0	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.8	2.5	2.8	4.0	0.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.5	2.0	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.8	1.0	4.3	3.5	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	1.0	0.5	0.8	—	0.5	0.5	0.0	—	1.0	—
	Weighted Median	1.4	1.6	0.9	5.3	0.6	0.7	1.7	3.9	1.5	1.4
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	12.0	8.0	4.0	38.5	3.0	4.0	6.0	—	—	5.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	12.3	8.0	4.0	38.5	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—	5.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	10.0	5.0	9.0	6.0	4.0	7.0	7.0	16.0	8.0	5.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	12.0	5.0	3.8	4.0	5.0	7.0	8.0	16.0	8.0	5.0
	Pacemaker Operations	5.5	1.0	5.5	—	5.0	3.0	3.0	—	8.0	—
	Weighted Median	8.4	4.5	4.7	35.3	4.1	3.5	4.5	16.0	8.0	5.0

Table 5i: Urology, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	10.0	6.0	7.0	10.0	6.0	12.0	10.0	7.5	6.0	72.0
Radical Prostatectomy	4.0	6.0	7.0	7.5	6.0	4.5	5.0	7.0	6.0	12.0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	4.0	4.5	7.0	2.3	4.0	5.5	4.0	4.0	10.0	8.3
Radical Cystectomy	5.0	6.5	7.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	—	5.3
Cystoscopy	4.0	6.0	8.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	18.0	16.0	22.0	15.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	8.0	72.0	11.0	8.0	16.0	22.0	26.0	18.0	15.0
Bladder Fulguration	5.0	5.0	7.0	3.0	4.0	5.5	8.0	5.0	18.0	15.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	12.0	5.5	72.0	—	11.0	8.0	15.0	8.5	—	—
Weighted Median	5.4	5.9	12.5	4.9	4.4	5.4	14.7	14.4	18.6	16.7

Table 5j: Internal Medicine, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	8.0	10.0	10.0	12.0	7.0	15.0	6.0	7.5	—	19.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	4.0	4.0	8.0	52.0	2.0	4.0	2.5	5.8	—	9.0
Bronchoscopy	3.0	3.0	2.3	12.0	3.5	2.0	6.5	3.8	2.0	2.5
Gastroscopy	4.0	8.0	8.8	12.0	4.3	12.0	7.0	5.0	—	13.5
Weighted Median	6.7	8.8	9.2	21.9	6.0	12.1	4.5	6.9	2.0	16.6

Table 5k: Radiation Oncology, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	1.9	2.5	—	2.5	2.3	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	0.3	2.5	—	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	—
Lung Cancer	0.9	2.5	—	2.8	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0
Prostate Cancer	2.1	4.5	—	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	2.5	3.5
Breast Cancer	1.9	4.5	—	3.5	2.0	4.0	2.5	3.0	2.5	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	0.5	1.5	—	0.5	1.0	0.5	1.3	1.0	0.0	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	1.3	14.0	—	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.3	3.0	1.0	—
Weighted Median	1.6	3.8		3.1	2.0	3.6	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.8

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 5l: Medical Oncology , 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appoinment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.8	—	—	3.0	1.5	1.5	2.0	—	0.1	2.0
Cancer of the Cervix	2.5	—	—	—	2.0	1.5	2.0	—	0.1	2.0
Lung Cancer	2.5	—	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	—	0.1	2.0
Breast Cancer	3.5	—	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	3.5	0.1	6.0
Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	—	—	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.0
Weighted Median	3.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	3.5	0.1	4.0

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 6(i): Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010 and 2011

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg
Plastic Surgery	22.1	33.6	-34%	39.8	11.5	245%	29.5	38.8	-24%	19.1	31.1	-39%	10.8	7.5	44%
Gynaecology	11.3	9.1	23%	10.0	9.9	0%	9.4	11.2	-16%	5.9	7.0	-15%	7.3	6.0	22%
Ophthal-mology	9.8	14.0	-30%	10.2	22.9	-56%	12.5	10.5	19%	26.0	6.0	332%	8.9	8.1	10%
Oto-laryngology	13.8	18.8	-26%	11.6	13.5	-14%	36.3	49.6	-27%	13.9	14.4	-4%	10.5	8.1	30%
General Surgery	7.3	7.2	1%	6.6	8.8	-25%	28.6	11.2	156%	14.4	7.4	93%	4.5	3.9	16%
Neuro-surgery	13.0	11.5	13%	7.6	6.0	26%	12.1	12.2	0%	2.4	2.4	0%	14.7	7.3	102%
Orthopaedic Surgery	22.0	20.4	8%	19.0	22.6	-16%	36.9	51.7	-29%	25.3	17.9	41%	15.5	13.6	14%
Cardio-vascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.4	1.2	15%	1.6	1.1	54%	0.9	3.9	-78%	5.3	0.9	473%	0.6	1.0	-38%
Cardio-vascular Surgery (Elective)	8.4	7.3	16%	4.5	5.7	-22%	4.7	18.7	-75%	35.3	6.8	421%	4.1	2.8	50%
Urology	5.4	4.9	10%	5.9	3.1	92%	12.5	—	—	4.9	3.3	47%	4.4	4.4	1%
Internal Medicine	6.7	5.9	13%	8.8	14.5	-39%	9.2	13.9	-34%	21.9	6.3	250%	6.0	5.2	16%
Radiation Oncology	1.6	4.3	-63%	3.8	5.5	-31%	—	—	—	3.1	—	—	2.0	2.2	-8%
Medical Oncology	3.0	1.9	58%	—	2.0	—	—	—	—	2.0	—	—	2.0	2.2	-12%
Weighted Median	9.6	10.6	-9%	10.4	12.2	-15%	19.0	19.7	-4%	17.5	8.9	97%	7.1	6.2	15%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 6(ii): Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010 and 2011

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland		
	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg
Plastic Surgery	15.7	11.6	35%	17.1	16.9	1%	141.1	44.6	216%	—	7.3	—	—	30.5	—
Gynaecology	9.0	6.7	34%	11.1	5.4	107%	4.6	8.2	-44%	7.0	6.1	15%	14.3	8.0	78%
Ophthal-mology	10.3	12.4	-17%	12.1	8.1	49%	22.0	21.1	4%	13.9	11.9	17%	19.1	10.0	92%
Oto-laryngology	7.7	6.4	19%	8.8	7.6	16%	14.4	13.4	8%	15.8	4.7	237%	9.2	11.2	-18%
General Surgery	7.3	8.3	-12%	4.5	6.2	-27%	7.6	8.4	-9%	3.4	3.0	11%	3.1	13.1	-76%
Neuro-surgery	6.7	12.8	-47%	18.1	—	—	13.9	15.5	-10%	—	—	—	3.3	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	18.2	14.2	29%	20.3	16.4	24%	35.2	38.7	-9%	30.1	102.1	-70%	18.8	23.1	-19%
Cardio-vascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.7	0.1	705%	1.7	6.0	-71%	3.9	0.7	482%	1.5	—	—	1.4	1.4	-1%
Cardio-vascular Surgery (Elective)	3.5	10.5	-66%	4.5	11.0	-59%	16.0	5.0	219%	8.0	—	—	5.0	6.3	-21%
Urology	5.4	5.8	-7%	14.7	8.7	69%	14.4	16.2	-11%	18.6	—	—	16.7	14.9	12%
Internal Medicine	12.1	11.8	3%	4.5	7.6	-40%	6.9	10.0	-32%	2.0	3.4	-41%	16.6	19.8	-16%
Radiation Oncology	3.6	3.9	-8%	2.9	4.0	-28%	2.6	—	—	2.2	2.4	-9%	2.8	3.7	-23%
Medical Oncology	1.5	2.0	-25%	2.0	—	—	3.5	10.0	-65%	0.1	2.0	-93%	4.0	2.0	99%
Weighted Median	9.2	9.9	-7%	10.9	9.0	21%	15.7	15.5	1%	12.3	22.4	-45%	11.4	14.4	-21%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 7: Frequency Distribution of Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province, 2011 Proportion of Survey Waiting Times that Fall Within Given Ranges

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0 - 3.99 Weeks	20.4%	14.3%	18.3%	26.4%	25.4%	22.8%	20.2%	16.3%	34.0%	21.0%
4 - 7.99 Weeks	22.3%	29.6%	21.9%	27.1%	28.5%	20.6%	21.9%	26.8%	15.5%	32.3%
8 - 12.99 Weeks	22.8%	27.5%	20.2%	21.3%	25.7%	28.7%	22.4%	19.2%	16.5%	17.7%
13 - 25.99 Weeks	16.9%	15.0%	15.4%	11.6%	12.8%	14.5%	20.5%	19.2%	24.7%	16.1%
26 - 51.99 Weeks	10.2%	6.9%	9.9%	8.9%	4.7%	7.4%	7.5%	7.4%	3.1%	9.7%
1 year plus	7.4%	6.7%	14.4%	4.7%	2.9%	5.9%	7.5%	11.1%	6.2%	3.2%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 8: Median Reasonable Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, 2011 (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	13.1	11.8	—	12.1	10.2	9.3	10.3	33.9	—	—	11.3
Gynaecology	6.7	8.6	9.8	7.3	5.7	7.4	5.0	5.5	—	10.3	6.9
Ophthalmology	10.9	10.9	10.7	9.9	7.6	9.5	7.1	11.2	11.9	—	9.6
Otolaryngology	10.2	6.5	17.3	7.1	9.1	6.7	8.6	9.3	4.7	5.2	8.5
General Surgery	5.4	4.1	7.1	6.4	4.5	5.6	5.4	5.7	3.4	5.1	5.1
Neurosurgery	4.7	5.5	—	6.4	6.2	2.7	18.0	23.3	—	—	6.0
Orthopaedic Surgery	11.1	11.5	11.5	18.1	10.9	11.2	14.6	14.4	15.3	14.0	11.7
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.2	1.0	1.0	2.8	0.9	0.0	0.9	2.5	1.0	1.4	0.8
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	6.6	6.2	11.1	24.6	4.8	5.5	4.6	12.8	8.0	5.0	6.6
Urology	3.5	3.4	—	5.2	3.7	4.4	7.0	8.4	—	4.7	4.1
Internal Medicine	3.5	3.4	5.9	3.2	3.6	4.7	3.0	3.1	1.0	2.0	3.9
Radiation Oncology	2.0	2.7	—	—	3.1	3.2	7.4	4.9	2.2	2.8	3.3
Medical Oncology	1.5	—	—	—	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.0	—	8.0	2.0
Weighted Median	6.7	8.0	8.9	8.3	5.7	6.8	7.4	8.4	7.7	5.6	6.7

Table 9a: Plastic Surgery, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	16.0	12.0	—	8.3	12.0	12.0	8.0	24.0	—	—
Neurolysis	6.0	9.0	—	7.0	7.5	6.0	8.0	4.0	—	—
Blepharoplasty	12.0	12.0	—	6.0	8.0	7.5	12.0	52.0	—	—
Rhinoplasty	12.0	12.0	—	32.0	12.0	10.0	16.0	52.0	—	—
Scar Revision	12.0	12.0	—	8.0	12.0	12.0	20.0	52.0	—	—
Hand Surgery	12.0	13.0	—	7.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	12.0	6.0	—	—	4.0	10.0	-	8.0	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	2.5	1.8	—	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	—	—
Weighted Median	13.1	11.8		12.1	10.2	9.3	10.3	33.9		

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

Table 9b: Gynaecology, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	4.0	6.0	5.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	1.5	5.0	—	9.0
Tubal Ligation	10.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	7.0	12.0	8.0	6.0	—	12.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	8.0	9.0	12.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	—	8.0
Vaginal Repair	12.0	12.0	14.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	—	12.0
Tuboplasty	10.0	9.0	21.0	—	8.0	12.0	—	6.0	—	12.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	7.5	8.0	12.0	9.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	6.0	—	10.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	5.0	8.0	9.0	5.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	5.0	—	12.0
Weighted Median	6.7	8.6	9.8	7.3	5.7	7.4	5.0	5.5		10.3

Table 9c: Ophthalmology, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	12.0	14.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	10.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	—
Cornea Transplant	22.8	12.0	18.0	24.0	12.0	18.0	8.0	16.0	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	12.0	10.0	8.0	5.5	8.0	10.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	10.0	6.0	7.0	2.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	5.3	1.0	5.0	—	4.0	1.0	10.0	8.5	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	8.0	12.0	8.0	20.0	10.0	10.0	8.0	12.5	3.0	—
Strabismus	8.0	10.5	6.0	10.0	10.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	10.0	14.0	8.0	5.5	8.0	12.0	8.0	11.0	7.5	—
Glaucoma	6.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	10.0	12.0	—
Weighted Median	10.9	10.9	10.7	9.9	7.6	9.5	7.1	11.2	11.9	

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 9d: Otolaryngology, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	4.0	3.0	8.0	3.5	6.0	3.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	4.0
Tympanoplasty	12.0	12.0	25.0	8.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	4.0	8.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	12.0	6.3	6.0	7.5	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	10.0	6.0	25.5	8.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	11.0	4.0	6.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	12.0	11.0	25.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	21.0	4.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	12.0	8.0	20.0	8.0	11.0	8.0	10.0	10.5	4.0	—
Weighted Median	10.2	6.5	17.3	7.1	9.1	6.7	8.6	9.3	4.7	5.2

Table 9e: General Surgery , 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	8.0	5.0	16.0	8.5	6.0	12.0	6.5	12.0	8.0	19.0
Cholecystectomy	6.0	4.0	16.0	6.5	4.5	7.0	6.5	5.0	3.0	12.0
Colonoscopy	6.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	4.8	5.0	4.0	6.0	2.8	1.5
Intestinal Operations	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	4.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	8.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	6.5	5.8	5.3
Breast Biopsy	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.4
Mastectomy	2.3	2.0	2.3	3.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.0	1.8	4.0
Bronchus and Lung	2.0	8.0	3.5	—	3.5	4.0	—	2.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	3.3	10.0	—	—	5.0	10.0	—	4.0	—	—
Varicose Veins	12.0	6.0	26.0	27.0	9.0	29.0	12.0	7.0	8.0	52.0
Weighted Median	5.4	4.1	7.1	6.4	4.5	5.6	5.4	5.7	3.4	5.1

Table 9f: Neurosurgery, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	6.0	8.0	—	12.0	8.0	4.0	26.0	26.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	6.0	8.0	—	12.0	6.0	5.0	26.0	12.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	4.0	4.0	—	4.0	6.0	1.0	12.0	26.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	4.0	4.0	—	—	4.0	12.0	8.0	16.0	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	2.0	2.0	—	—	4.5	0.8	2.0	—	—	—
Weighted Median	4.7	5.5	—	6.4	6.2	2.7	18.0	23.3	—	—

Table 9g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	6.5	10.5	6.0	10.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	7.0	9.0	14.0
Removal of Pins	11.0	12.0	20.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	15.0	12.0	9.0	14.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	12.0	12.0	12.0	21.0	12.0	12.0	15.0	16.0	17.5	14.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	14.0	12.0	9.0	—	8.5	12.0	18.0	12.0	17.5	13.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	12.0	11.0	12.0	—	12.0	12.0	20.0	12.0	17.5	14.0
Digit Neuroma	12.0	10.5	12.0	20.0	8.0	12.0	20.0	12.0	9.0	14.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	8.0	12.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	11.0	14.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	12.0	12.0	12.0	14.0	11.0	12.0	16.0	18.0	17.5	14.0
Routine Spinal Instability	12.0	9.5	6.0	—	10.0	16.0	15.0	26.0	—	—
Weighted Median	11.1	11.5	11.5	18.1	10.9	11.2	14.6	14.4	15.3	14.0

Table 9h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.5	—	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.5	—	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.0	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	0.0	—	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	—
	Pacemaker Operations	0.1	0.6	0.0	—	0.5	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—
	Weighted Median	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.5	1.0	1.0	3.0	0.8	0.3	2.0	—	—	1.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.5	1.5	1.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	—	—	1.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	2.5	1.0	0.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.0	—	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.5	1.0	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	1.0	0.8	1.0	—	1.0	1.0	0.0	—	1.0	—
	Weighted Median	1.2	1.0	1.0	2.8	0.9	0.0	0.9	2.5	1.0	1.4
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	10.0	8.0	8.0	26.5	4.5	7.5	6.0	—	—	5.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	10.0	8.0	26.0	26.5	5.0	7.5	6.0	—	—	5.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	8.0	8.0	7.5	6.0	4.0	6.0	9.0	16.0	8.0	5.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	8.0	—	3.5	6.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	5.0
	Pacemaker Operations	4.0	4.5	8.0	—	5.0	4.0	3.0	—	8.0	—
	Weighted Median	6.6	6.2	11.1	24.6	4.8	5.5	4.6	12.8	8.0	5.0

Table 9i: Urology, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	4.0	5.5	—	6.5	6.0	7.0	7.0	12.0	—	5.0
Radical Prostatectomy	4.0	6.0	—	8.0	6.0	4.0	4.5	8.0	—	2.0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	2.0	3.0	—	2.8	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	—	2.0
Radical Cystectomy	2.0	5.0	—	5.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	—	2.5
Cystoscopy	3.0	3.0	—	3.5	3.0	4.0	7.5	8.0	—	5.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	7.0	5.0	—	12.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	20.0	—	5.0
Bladder Fulguration	4.0	3.0	—	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	4.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	6.0	8.0	—	—	10.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	—	—
Weighted Median	3.5	3.4		5.2	3.7	4.4	7.0	8.4		4.7

Table 9j: Internal Medicine, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	—	2.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	2.5	1.0	6.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	2.0	3.5	—	2.0
Bronchoscopy	2.0	2.0	2.3	1.0	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.0
Gastroscopy	4.0	2.0	6.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.0	—	2.0
Weighted Median	3.5	3.4	5.9	3.2	3.6	4.7	3.0	3.1	1.0	2.0

Table 9k: Radiation Oncology, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	1.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	2.5	4.0	3.0	2.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	1.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	—
Lung Cancer	1.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	2.3	3.0	3.0	1.5	2.0
Prostate Cancer	2.0	3.0	—	—	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	2.5	3.5
Breast Cancer	3.0	3.0	—	—	3.0	4.0	16.0	6.0	2.5	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	0.8	1.5	—	—	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.0	0.0	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	3.0	14.0	—	—	2.0	1.0	1.8	8.0	2.5	—
Weighted Median	2.0	2.7			3.1	3.2	7.4	4.9	2.2	2.8

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 9l: Medical Oncology, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	1.8	—	—	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	1.5	—	—	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	—	—
Lung Cancer	1.5	—	—	—	2.0	1.5	2.0	—	—	—
Breast Cancer	1.5	—	—	—	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	8.0
Side Effects from Treatment	0.5	—	—	—	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.0	—	2.0
Weighted Median	1.5				1.9	1.7	2.0	2.0		8.0

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 10(i): Comparison between the Median Actual Weeks Waited and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2011

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	22.1	13.1	70%	39.8	11.8	236%	29.5	—	—	19.1	12.1	57%	10.8	10.2	5%
Gynaecology	11.3	6.7	69%	10.0	8.6	16%	9.4	9.8	-4%	5.9	7.3	-19%	7.3	5.7	29%
Ophthalmology	9.8	10.9	-10%	10.2	10.9	-6%	12.5	10.7	17%	26.0	9.9	163%	8.9	7.6	18%
Otolaryngology	13.8	10.2	36%	11.6	6.5	79%	36.3	17.3	110%	13.9	7.1	95%	10.5	9.1	16%
General Surgery	7.3	5.4	35%	6.6	4.1	60%	28.6	7.1	302%	14.4	6.4	124%	4.5	4.5	-2%
Neurosurgery	13.0	4.7	178%	7.6	5.5	39%	12.1	—	—	2.4	6.4	-62%	14.7	6.2	137%
Orthopaedic Surgery	22.0	11.1	97%	19.0	11.5	65%	36.9	11.5	220%	25.3	18.1	40%	15.5	10.9	42%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.4	1.2	19%	1.6	1.0	62%	0.9	1.0	-13%	5.3	2.8	92%	0.6	0.9	-33%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	8.4	6.6	28%	4.5	6.2	-28%	4.7	11.1	-57%	35.3	24.6	44%	4.1	4.8	-14%
Urology	5.4	3.5	55%	5.9	3.4	75%	12.5	—	—	4.9	5.2	-6%	4.4	3.7	19%
Internal Medicine	6.7	3.5	88%	8.8	3.4	155%	9.2	5.9	56%	21.9	3.2	590%	6.0	3.6	66%
Radiation Oncology	1.6	2.0	-17%	3.8	2.7	44%	—	—	—	3.1	—	—	2.0	3.1	-34%
Medical Oncology	3.0	1.5	97%	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	—	—	2.0	1.9	6%
Weighted Median	9.6	6.7	44%	10.4	8.0	30%	19.0	8.9	113%	17.5	8.3	110%	7.1	5.7	24%

A = Median Actual Wait;
R = Median Clinically Reasonable Wait;
D = Percentage Difference

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 10(ii): Comparison between the Median Actual Weeks Waited and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2011

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	15.7	9.3	69%	17.1	10.3	65%	141.1	33.9	316%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gynaecology	9.0	7.4	21%	11.1	5.0	123%	4.6	5.5	-17%	7.0	—	—	14.3	10.3	38%
Ophthalmology	10.3	9.5	8%	12.1	7.1	70%	22.0	11.2	96%	13.9	11.9	17%	19.1	—	—
Otolaryngology	7.7	6.7	15%	8.8	8.6	2%	14.4	9.3	55%	15.8	4.7	235%	9.2	5.2	77%
General Surgery	7.3	5.6	31%	4.5	5.4	-16%	7.6	5.7	34%	3.4	3.4	-1%	3.1	5.1	-39%
Neurosurgery	6.7	2.7	151%	18.1	18.0	1%	13.9	23.3	-40%	—	—	—	3.3	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	18.2	11.2	62%	20.3	14.6	39%	35.2	14.4	144%	30.1	15.3	97%	18.8	14.0	35%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.7	0.0	—	1.7	0.9	95%	3.9	2.5	57%	1.5	1.0	49%	1.4	1.4	0%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	3.5	5.5	-35%	4.5	4.6	-4%	16.0	12.8	25%	8.0	8.0	0%	5.0	5.0	0%
Urology	5.4	4.4	21%	14.7	7.0	109%	14.4	8.4	71%	18.6	—	—	16.7	4.7	257%
Internal Medicine	12.1	4.7	160%	4.5	3.0	53%	6.9	3.1	122%	2.0	1.0	100%	16.6	2.0	728%
Radiation Oncology	3.6	3.2	10%	2.9	7.4	-61%	2.6	4.9	-46%	2.2	2.2	0%	2.8	2.8	0%
Medical Oncology	1.5	1.7	-13%	2.0	2.0	0%	3.5	2.0	75%	0.1	—	—	4.0	8.0	-50%
Weighted Median	9.2	6.8	35%	10.9	7.4	47%	15.7	8.4	87%	12.3	7.7	60%	11.4	5.6	101%

A = Median Actual Wait;
R = Median Clinically Reasonable Wait;
D = Percentage Difference

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 11: Average Percentage of Patients Receiving Treatment Outside of Canada, 2011

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	7.8%	3.0%	1.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	2.5%	0.0%	—	—	2.0%
Gynaecology	2.1%	0.6%	1.9%	0.2%	1.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.1%
Ophthalmology	0.9%	1.0%	0.5%	0.1%	0.8%	0.5%	1.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Otolaryngology	1.3%	1.1%	0.0%	1.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
General Surgery	1.9%	1.8%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	0.1%	1.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.8%
Neurosurgery	2.8%	2.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	—	0.0%	1.4%
Orthopaedic Surgery	0.5%	1.8%	1.8%	0.1%	1.4%	0.2%	0.9%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	1.0%
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Urology	1.3%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.2%	0.2%	0.5%	2.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.9%
Internal Medicine	1.1%	1.9%	0.8%	3.4%	1.2%	0.1%	0.0%	1.1%	1.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Radiation Oncology	0.8%	2.5%	—	—	0.9%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Medical Oncology	1.1%	—	—	0.5%	1.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	3.0%	0.0%	0.9%
All Specialties	1.8%	1.4%	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	1.0%

Table 12: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 2011

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	3,573	8,066	706	834	5,090	4,192	597	3,859	—	—
Gynaecology	5,129	5,058	1,305	809	9,404	6,979	1,039	610	131	1,300
Ophthalmology	11,897	36,015	3,979	5,614	29,979	48,029	2,155	7,117	348	1,932
Otolaryngology	3,735	4,336	3,611	1,303	10,831	4,549	791	1,285	174	366
General Surgery	11,950	8,795	12,795	6,519	22,421	28,113	803	3,398	192	948
Neurosurgery	1,489	751	414	52	5,025	1,091	335	341	—	66
Orthopaedic Surgery	16,568	14,090	7,222	5,512	33,582	20,537	2,799	6,044	836	1,227
Cardiovascular Surgery	310	201	43	151	317	325	70	7	5	16
Urology	5,077	3,904	2,860	603	15,666	8,870	2,556	4,411	410	2,748
Internal Medicine	7,342	6,686	2,865	7,147	17,962	25,572	242	1,725	1	2,607
Radiation Oncology	36	71	—	10	184	214	45	26	5	4
Medical Oncology	139	—	—	22	556	274	34	52	0	76
Residual	42,433	49,761	24,147	22,415	107,386	80,523	7,880	22,099	1,428	10,158
Total	109,677	137,734	59,947	50,992	258,405	229,269	19,346	50,974	3,531	21,447
Proportion of Population	2.42%	3.70%	5.74%	4.13%	1.95%	2.90%	2.57%	5.40%	2.46%	4.19%
Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2011								941,321		
Percentage of Population								2.76%		

Note: Totals may not match sums of numbers for individual procedures or specialties due to rounding.
All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 13a: Plastic Surgery, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	1,900	4,914	334	267	2,073	1,053	342	890	—	—
Neurolysis	166	454	31	37	991	1,252	41	493	—	—
Blepharoplasty	196	71	—	9	207	35	11	125	—	—
Rhinoplasty	541	662	—	210	536	369	65	418	—	—
Scar Revision	449	1,190	251	250	610	1,118	91	1,749	—	—
Hand Surgery	321	774	89	61	673	366	45	184	—	—
Total	3,573	8,066	706	834	5,090	4,192	597	3,859	—	—

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13b: Gynaecology, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	813	993	147	200	1,687	898	151	130	30	407
Tubal Ligation	1,250	1,075	360	171	2,000	1,227	272	96	21	300
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	1,310	1,112	385	194	2,921	2,017	326	169	24	183
Vaginal Repair	237	311	67	45	388	359	77	51	8	87
Tuboplasty	64	33	7	—	23	33	2	3	1	2
Laparoscopic Procedures	312	208	75	45	670	766	38	24	12	31
Hysteroscopic Procedures	1,143	1,326	263	154	1,714	1,681	171	138	34	289
Total	5,129	5,058	1,305	809	9,404	6,979	1,039	610	131	1,300

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13c: Ophthalmology, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	9,635	30,260	3,462	5,245	22,831	40,261	1,968	5,486	338	1,837
Cornea Transplant	237	3,111	48	—	1,184	2,806	0	85	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	80	201	39	2	240	421	11	12	3	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	112	791	106	16	455	1,280	11	288	2	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	1,028	954	113	—	2,908	583	32	763	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	136	287	33	56	550	496	40	92	0	10
Strabismus	335	207	47	271	1,295	757	29	326	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	334	203	131	23	517	1,424	65	65	4	85
Total	11,897	36,015	3,979	5,614	29,979	48,029	2,155	7,117	348	1,932

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.
The procedure data reported generally include only those procedures performed in public facilities. A large number of ophthalmological surgeries are performed in private facilities. The distribution of surgeries between public and private facilities varies significantly between provinces. There are also differences between provinces regarding payment or reimbursement for ophthalmological surgery at private facilities.

Table 13d: Otolaryngology, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	221	274	259	67	2,038	877	117	258	31	82
Tympanoplasty	194	195	282	74	522	393	81	136	9	102
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	455	421	87	81	1,449	744	55	141	12	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	864	2,030	1,766	553	3,924	949	361	372	76	182
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	652	432	389	191	920	684	76	122	10	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	1,348	983	827	336	1,977	902	101	256	36	—
Total	3,735	4,336	3,611	1,303	10,831	4,549	791	1,285	174	366

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13e: General Surgery, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	2,272	1,533	1,023	616	3,061	2,124	161	600	25	292
Cholecystectomy	1,270	1,643	908	583	2,559	3,195	263	326	29	199
Colonoscopy	3,981	2,303	9,798	4,062	7,077	15,563	96	1,410	75	122
Intestinal Operations	2,904	1,843	702	926	7,311	4,646	167	723	47	197
Haemorrhoidectomy	614	450	242	145	975	1,372	44	96	3	100
Breast Biopsy	16	16	3	2	35	57	2	96	1	6
Mastectomy	409	370	73	81	778	630	47	55	11	23
Bronchus and Lung	—	73	0	—	286	128	—	57	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	38	—	0	—	40	144	—	1	—	—
Varicose Veins	446	563	45	104	300	256	22	32	2	9
Total	11,950	8,795	12,795	6,519	22,421	28,113	803	3,398	192	948

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13f: Neurosurgery, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	84	135	23	4	515	—	55	20	—	27
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	804	340	162	18	2,214	590	172	55	—	16
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	587	260	220	30	2,270	414	102	263	—	22
Aneurysm Surgery	4	6	1	—	11	61	1	3	—	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	10	11	9	—	15	26	4	—	—	—
Total	1,489	751	414	52	5,025	1,091	335	341	—	66

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	1,041	1,491	358	257	2,293	2,398	187	365	28	126
Removal of Pins	880	1,033	322	145	1,882	2,387	127	213	14	87
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	10,386	6,566	4,658	4,334	20,936	10,718	1,774	4,108	605	764
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	674	255	163	—	1,022	629	131	74	10	78
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	190	230	41	—	371	142	25	37	7	4
Digit Neuroma	694	1,232	617	116	1,700	1,280	173	309	18	55
Rotator Cuff Repair	971	783	296	125	1,566	612	103	368	29	87
Ostectomy (All Types)	1,150	1,937	661	536	2,537	917	149	466	126	25
Routine Spinal Instability	583	563	107	—	1,275	1,455	131	105	—	—
Total	16,568	14,090	7,222	5,512	33,582	20,537	2,799	6,044	836	1,227

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Coronary Artery Bypass	96	85	15	96	83	104	46	—	—	12
Valves & Septa of the Heart	79	78	9	52	117	85	22	—	—	3
Aneurysm Surgery	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	12	6	0	2	8	9	2	6	2	0
Pacemaker Operations	121	30	18	—	108	126	0	—	3	—
Total	310	201	43	151	317	325	70	7	5	16

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13i: Urology, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	883	250	83	85	1,016	1,102	135	94	12	456
Radical Prostatectomy	76	87	21	30	365	184	20	38	3	37
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	340	255	107	25	869	737	56	71	17	81
Radical Cystectomy	19	18	6	4	62	25	3	6	—	3
Cystoscopy	2,261	2,602	1,294	166	9,810	4,474	1,650	3,439	309	1,852
Hernia/Hydrocele	960	324	1,137	226	2,027	1,380	456	598	40	116
Bladder Fulguration	514	360	130	68	1,463	932	235	157	28	204
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	24	9	82	—	54	36	1	8	—	—
Total	5,077	3,904	2,860	603	15,666	8,870	2,556	4,411	410	2,748

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13j: Internal Medicine, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	5,924	5,920	2,061	2,708	16,039	22,646	98	1,358	—	2,311
Angiography /Angioplasty	1,208	345	672	4,200	822	1,657	63	254	—	185
Bronchoscopy	94	146	15	111	602	183	37	54	1	22
Gastroscopy	115	275	118	127	500	1,086	44	59	—	89
Total	7,342	6,686	2,865	7,147	17,962	25,572	242	1,725	1	2,607

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13k: Radiation Oncology, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Radiotherapy	36	71	—	10	184	214	45	26	5	4

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 13l: Medical Oncology, 2011
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Chemotherapy	139	—	—	22	556	274	34	52	0	76

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 14: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist in 2011
Procedures per 100,000 Population

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	79	217	68	68	38	53	79	408	—	—
Gynaecology	113	136	125	66	71	88	138	65	91	254
Ophthalmology	263	968	381	455	227	608	286	753	243	378
Otolaryngology	82	117	346	106	82	58	105	136	121	72
General Surgery	264	236	1,226	528	170	356	107	360	134	185
Neurosurgery	33	20	40	4	38	14	45	36	—	13
Orthopaedic Surgery	366	379	692	446	254	260	372	640	583	240
Cardiovascular Surgery	7	5	4	12	2	4	9	1	4	3
Urology	112	105	274	49	118	112	339	467	286	537
Internal Medicine	162	180	274	579	136	323	32	183	0	510
Radiation Oncology	1	2	—	1	1	3	6	3	4	1
Medical Oncology	3	—	—	2	4	3	4	6	0	15

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 15(i): Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2011 and 2010

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg
Plastic Surgery	3,573	5,591	-36%	8,066	1,093	638%	706	1,554	-55%	834	1,331	-37%	5,090	3,458	47%
Gynaecology	5,129	4,069	26%	5,058	3,736	35%	1,305	1,353	-4%	809	952	-15%	9,404	7,818	20%
Ophthalmology	11,897	16,602	-28%	36,015	14,950	141%	3,979	3,166	26%	5,614	1,587	254%	29,979	28,261	6%
Otolaryngology	3,735	5,490	-32%	4,336	2,849	52%	3,611	4,981	-28%	1,303	1,232	6%	10,831	8,529	27%
General Surgery	11,950	10,410	15%	8,795	9,608	-8%	12,795	4,534	182%	6,519	2,986	118%	22,421	17,836	26%
Neurosurgery	1,489	1,319	13%	751	512	47%	414	406	2%	52	45	16%	5,025	2,246	124%
Orthopaedic Surgery	16,568	14,517	14%	14,090	10,745	31%	7,222	8,888	-19%	5,512	3,682	50%	33,582	28,240	19%
Cardiovascular Surgery	310	211	47%	201	106	89%	43	70	-40%	151	25	507%	317	457	-31%
Urology	5,077	4,420	15%	3,904	2,070	89%	2,860	—	—	603	388	56%	15,666	15,379	2%
Internal Medicine	7,342	5,016	46%	6,686	8,982	-26%	2,865	4,065	-30%	7,147	1,581	352%	17,962	14,423	25%
Radiation Oncology	36	73	-51%	71	69	2%	—	—	—	10	—	—	184	139	33%
Medical Oncology	139	89	57%	—	90	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	556	643	-14%
Residual	42,433	42,328	0%	49,761	40,707	22%	24,147	22,141	9%	22,415	10,051	123%	107,386	85,390	26%
Total	109,677	110,135	0%	137,734	95,518	44%	59,947	51,158	17%	50,992	23,858	114%	258,405	212,818	21%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians which have been rounded for inclusion in the table.
All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 15(ii): Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2011 and 2010

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg	2011	2010	% chg
Plastic Surgery	4,192	2,554	64%	597	576	4%	3,859	1,211	219%	—	29	—	—	416	—
Gynaecology	6,979	4,543	54%	1,039	404	157%	610	934	-35%	131	127	3%	1,300	676	92%
Ophthalmology	48,029	75,185	-36%	2,155	1,374	57%	7,117	5,954	20%	348	271	28%	1,932	1,124	72%
Otolaryngology	4,549	3,386	34%	791	709	12%	1,285	895	44%	174	45	290%	366	566	-35%
General Surgery	28,113	28,554	-2%	803	1,087	-26%	3,398	3,253	4%	192	165	17%	948	3,373	-72%
Neurosurgery	1,091	2,483	-56%	335	—	—	341	128	167%	—	—	—	66	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	20,537	12,327	67%	2,799	2,161	29%	6,044	5,700	6%	836	2,526	-67%	1,227	1,545	-21%
Cardiovascular Surgery	325	34	853%	70	101	-31%	7	29	-77%	5	—	—	16	1	1039%
Urology	8,870	13,116	-32%	2,556	1,555	64%	4,411	4,559	-3%	410	—	—	2,748	2,068	33%
Internal Medicine	25,572	25,562	0%	242	339	-28%	1,725	2,039	-15%	1	8	-93%	2,607	3,489	-25%
Radiation Oncology	214	168	28%	45	51	-11%	26	—	—	5	4	35%	4	3	57%
Medical Oncology	274	391	-30%	34	—	—	52	136	-62%	0	4	-95%	76	38	101%
Residual	80,523	76,960	5%	7,880	5,528	43%	22,099	18,517	19%	1,428	2,149	-34%	10,158	11,209	-9%
Total	229,269	245,264	-7%	19,346	13,886	39%	50,974	43,356	18%	3,531	5,327	-34%	21,447	24,507	-12%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact estimated values which have been rounded for inclusion in the table.
All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 16a(i): Acute Inpatient Procedures, 2009-2010

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	13,757	10,720	4,097	3,788	41,523	17,072	2,436	3,269	485	1,381
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/ Metatarsophalangeal)	438	549	119	57	884	361	83	55	6	45
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	96	102	10	9	206	105	8	5	1	5
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	164	248	46	33	410	432	31	45	8	33
Ostectomy	1,265	1,466	360	440	3,667	2,198	256	354	37	128
Removal of Pins	1,002	1,090	217	261	2,633	1,574	182	203	22	82
Rotator Cuff Repair	672	746	158	220	1,831	923	68	224	16	57
Routine Spinal Instability	1,074	1,056	463	366	3,280	1,877	377	302	0	158
Bladder Fulguration	1,512	1,044	372	278	4,958	2,457	513	445	40	380
Cystoscopy	2,418	1,570	508	250	7,711	4,050	653	945	36	800
Non-radical Prostatectomy	3,682	1,766	434	168	7,304	3,889	596	609	107	322
Radical Cystectomy	201	147	41	39	541	331	33	48	1	29
Radical Prostatectomy	982	750	159	207	3,159	2,124	208	285	25	160
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	1,176	1,108	277	161	4,694	2,623	317	233	72	352
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	41	52	25	28	205	140	2	26	0	13
Cataract Removal	95	295	35	103	189	471	20	54	2	15
Cornea Transplant	49	117	38	25	23	211	0	9	0	1
Cornea—Pterygium	2	7	1	2	3	8	1	2	0	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	101	280	71	108	158	302	8	72	2	5
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	44	72	27	8	66	89	19	17	0	19
Operations on Eyelids	144	165	57	49	415	290	18	56	0	9
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	541	3,956	367	1,101	1,691	1,511	3	255	1	14
Strabismus Surgery	20	14	4	7	35	23	0	8	0	1
Myringotomy	218	262	64	103	685	734	139	142	13	88
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	436	616	30	282	1,143	678	85	159	3	93
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	1,700	1,734	428	420	7,134	3,740	461	445	31	255
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	1,005	1,460	881	530	2,206	1,213	548	423	127	448
Tympanoplasty	86	118	5	20	319	285	33	121	4	15
Radiotherapy	565	805	221	30	4,541	2,634	530	506	126	77
Chemotherapy	2,249	2,335	776	572	10,122	6,812	861	751	68	918
Breast Biopsy	72	43	37	21	213	196	18	23	2	11
Bronchus and Lung	1,091	925	245	475	3,638	2,896	285	384	1	104

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2009-10" and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables

Table 16a(ii): Acute Inpatient Procedures, 2009-2010

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cholecystectomy	3,529	3,759	1,545	1,543	6,825	7,308	1,086	1,229	255	700
Haemorrhoidectomy	115	62	55	75	156	206	27	15	2	15
Intestinal Operations	8,489	6,228	2,267	2,445	25,002	15,699	1,870	2,497	224	1,357
Mastectomy	2,531	2,246	640	447	3,718	3,181	331	477	118	294
Varicose Veins	66	76	41	58	58	69	11	16	0	23
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,616	1,038	370	207	4,181	2,102	293	211	0	262
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,362	2,959	1,127	767	9,688	5,300	439	846	0	412
Blepharoplasty	10	10	4	4	52	17	0	2	0	0
Mammoplasty	670	1,050	178	325	1,988	872	378	112	37	222
Scar Revision	1,025	1,601	194	408	1,846	1,692	139	306	18	159
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,484	1,465	794	864	8,582	5,397	600	666	0	422
Pacemaker Operations	2,910	1,889	801	833	7,705	7,878	904	692	110	237
Valves & Septa of the Heart	2,018	1,616	453	474	6,057	4,408	282	635	0	116
Angiography/Angioplasty	7,231	3,194	3,007	1,272	20,310	15,334	1,241	1,997	59	755
Bronchoscopy	872	1,537	250	269	5,608	2,887	158	424	7	225
Gastroscopy	458	625	254	132	2,124	1,647	254	213	22	125
Dilation and Curettage	417	295	79	70	703	467	28	28	9	49
Hysterectomy	5,237	4,669	1,518	1,519	15,303	8,833	1,301	1,585	206	791
Hysteroscopic Procedures	178	172	65	22	233	218	29	29	3	23
Laparoscopic Procedures	400	273	135	42	1,023	1,004	48	97	9	28
Tubal Ligation	1,749	1,885	735	605	4,920	2,107	399	369	66	322
Tuboplasty	48	51	17	6	64	54	7	8	2	5
Vaginal Repair	538	893	190	318	1,491	1,031	230	329	25	372
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	403	368	14	298	696	530	83	68	6	36
Hernia/Hydrocele	4,094	4,004	1,747	1,650	19,521	7,266	1,020	1,415	167	616
Carotid Endarterectomy	669	306	105	185	1,166	1,023	135	109	36	75
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	291	328	68	136	579	482	59	65	6	51
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	289	463	108	135	1,966	1,830	129	109	2	35
Colonoscopy	3,492	2,536	1,223	1,134	9,293	8,837	826	740	94	608
Aneurysm Surgery	295	235	37	109	729	558	62	67	0	11
Residual	103,325	97,816	27,258	29,833	291,596	177,559	20,807	27,223	2,397	14,105
Total	195,709	179,267	55,852	56,346	568,770	348,045	41,968	53,054	5,116	28,469

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2009-10"and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables

Table 16b(i): Same Day Procedures, 2009-2010

Procedure	BC	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	7,014	1,958	3,254	26,519	1,330	1,090	441	310
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/ Metatarsophalangeal)	963	154	149	1,772	106	186	19	57
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	316	38	113	1,001	52	92	18	26
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	4,345	729	1,081	9,526	851	746	151	322
Ostectomy	1,035	213	431	2,928	261	283	47	59
Removal of Pins	2,812	544	493	5,521	416	488	66	177
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,270	269	321	3,260	186	574	59	135
Routine Spinal Instability	9	1	1	35	0	0	0	0
Bladder Fulguration	3,829	595	907	14,063	1,012	1,190	42	327
Cystoscopy	26,969	7,902	2,633	119,825	4,115	10,231	695	5,619
Non-radical Prostatectomy	912	183	272	1,499	104	42	0	7
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,250	521	411	6,600	416	684	16	157
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	63	34	28	48	3	23	0	35
Cataract Removal	47,621	12,823	9,906	131,722	8,507	10,918	1,254	4,762
Cornea Transplant	464	1	70	1,076	0	160	0	12
Cornea—Pterygium	551	153	26	1,783	46	90	12	67
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	1,124	389	309	5,758	44	1,424	5	67
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	841	189	146	2,318	111	255	1	81
Operations on Eyelids	2,024	511	172	4,963	318	430	24	361
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	8,369	1,597	1,758	20,710	41	2,684	14	710
Strabismus Surgery	1,404	270	408	3,705	108	406	12	33
Myringotomy	2,083	1,620	770	12,564	1,376	1,534	189	978
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,070	687	690	7,423	442	506	91	289
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and other Endocrine Glands	273	25	48	1,240	14	19	0	2
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	2,740	852	1,161	14,798	1,018	732	71	339
Tympanoplasty	543	239	222	1,943	318	233	20	206
Radiotherapy	580	0	148	234	292	1	0	3
Chemotherapy	188	1,684	5	4,412	17	24	2	73
Breast Biopsy	198	18	20	507	30	1,646	11	155
Bronchus and Lung	41	1	7	82	2	10	0	3
Cholecystectomy	4,727	1,079	1,489	19,787	1,194	1,600	119	778
Haemorrhoidectomy	2,547	1,204	679	8,298	226	441	47	578
Intestinal Operations	21,712	5,032	5,584	83,616	306	5,027	664	3,766

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2009-10"and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables.
Note: Information is not available in this format for Alberta or Quebec.

Table 16b(ii): Same Day Procedures, 2009-2010

Procedure	BC	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mastectomy	4,556	621	847	12,465	899	790	109	514
Varicose Veins	826	193	106	2,542	132	265	27	18
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	285	97	26	1,052	51	28	0	1
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	32	17	25	147	4	9	0	4
Blepharoplasty	382	58	12	1,296	33	28	3	20
Mammoplasty	2,624	443	479	6,994	609	148	41	100
Scar Revision	391	57	134	799	77	277	17	14
Pacemaker Operations	3,360	442	620	3,545	204	928	38	262
Valves & Septa of the Heart	32	2	0	8	0	6	0	0
Angiography/Angioplasty	8,476	1,359	2,928	1,056	70	302	19	315
Bronchoscopy	753	98	214	3,334	136	328	8	223
Gastroscopy	1,043	447	419	3,989	76	401	56	219
Dilation and Curettage	6,631	1,623	1,821	18,794	953	1,663	251	1,464
Hysterectomy	3	149	34	686	3	12	0	2
Hysteroscopic Procedures	4,774	1,546	1,432	10,909	1,084	1,759	195	1,049
Laparoscopic Procedures	953	189	388	3,335	94	179	60	88
Tubal Ligation	2,312	826	762	8,082	613	746	119	500
Tuboplasty	118	13	6	84	1	20	5	6
Vaginal Repair	344	102	68	1,032	57	112	19	38
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	3,043	757	728	6,778	353	393	44	110
Hernia/Hydrocele	9,913	2,031	2,618	25,486	2,147	2,382	238	1,050
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3,727	992	1,184	9,704	685	1,191	95	557
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	794	123	162	5,421	160	219	18	436
Colonoscopy	60,892	16,771	17,641	171,186	1,029	14,784	2,349	12,043
Aneurysm Surgery	5	0	1	6	0	1	0	0
Residual	124,735	37,421	38,464	487,349	16,007	44,415	3,583	31,490
Total	394,891	107,892	104,831	1,305,615	48,739	115,155	11,384	71,017

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2009-10"and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables.
Note: Information is not available in this format for Alberta or Quebec.

Appendix A: Links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies

Alberta

Alberta Wait Times Reporting web site: http://waittimes.alberta.ca/

British Columbia

British Columbia Ministry of Health: http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/swt

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network: www.sasksurgery.ca

Saskatchewan Specialist Directory: http://specialists.health.gov.sk.ca/

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health (diagnostic imaging): http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/diagnostic-imaging-wait-times

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency: www.saskcancer.ca

Manitoba

Manitoba Ministry of Health: http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/waittime/

Ontario

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/waittimes/

Cardiac Care Network of Ontario: http://www.ccn.on.ca/

Cancer Care Ontario: http://www.cancercare.on.ca/ocs/wait-times/

Quebec

Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services:
http://wpp01.msss.gouv.qc.ca/appl/g74web/default.asp

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Department of Health:
http://www1.gnb.ca/0217/surgicalwaittimes/index-e.aspx

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Department of Health: http://gov.ns.ca/health/waittimes/

Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Department of Health:
http://www.healthpei.ca/waittimes

Newfoundland & Labrador

Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Health and Community Services:
http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/data.html

Appendix B: Psychiatry waiting list survey, 2011 report

The psychiatry waiting list survey was conducted between January 12 and May 20, 2011. Surveys were sent out to all of the specialists in the psychiatry category of the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls who have allowed their names to be provided by Cornerstone List Fulfillment. This year, the overall response rate to the psychiatry survey was 8 percent (see table B1).

The treatments identified in the following tables represent a cross-section of common treatments carried out by psychiatrists. The list of treatments was developed in consultation with the Canadian Psychiatric Association, who also assisted in making adjustments to the standard survey form to reflect differences between psychiatric practices and practices in the other specialties presented in this document.

Unlike other specialties in *Waiting Your Turn* in which the waiting times are weighted by the total number of such procedures that have been done by all physicians, the overall median for psychiatry is presented as an unweighted measure (see the section on *Methodology* in the main document text for a clear description of the Fraser Institute's weighting procedures). All of the median measures that make up the final specialty median are given equal weight. This alteration to the standard methodology results from a lack of data counting the number of patients treated by psychiatrists, separated by treatment. We hope, in the coming years, to develop a weighting system for psychiatric treatments to allow a weighted average for this specialty to be calculated. In the current estimates, national medians are developed through a weighting system that bases the weight of each provincial median on the number of specialists contacted in that province.

Table B1: Summary of Responses

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	591	317	59	145	1,778	1,020	50	117	11	49	4,137
Number of Responses	44	33	6	7	171	62	10	13	0	3	349
Response Rates	7%	10%	10%	5%	10%	6%	20%	11%	0%	6%	8%

Findings

Total wait times

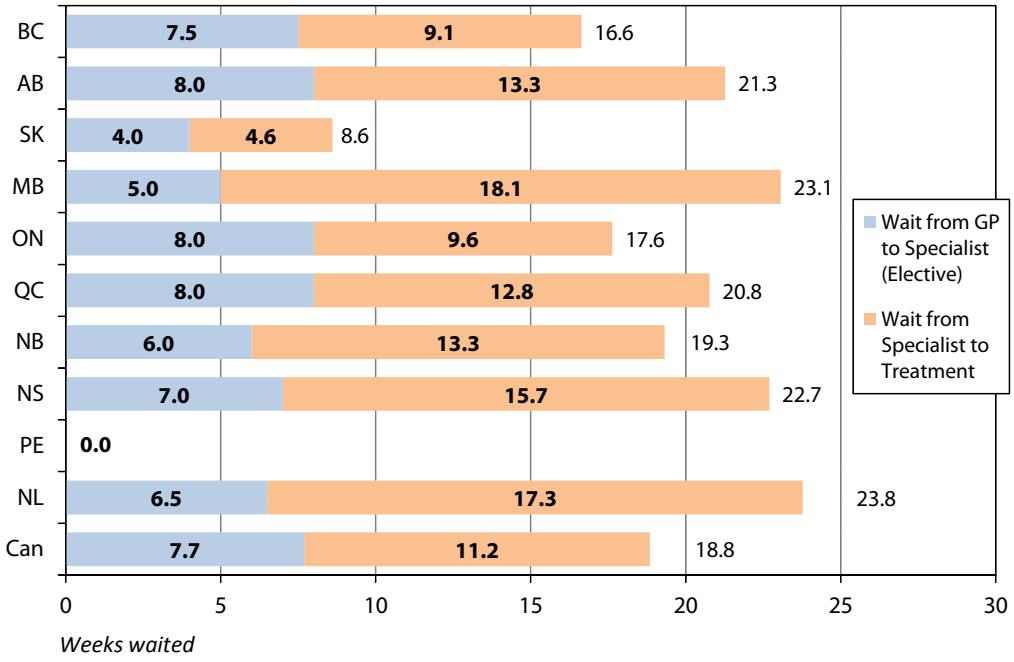
Across the provinces, the total wait time (between the referral by a general practitioner and the time that the required elective treatment begins) for psychiatry has risen from 16.0 weeks in 2010 to 18.8 weeks in 2011 (see graph B1). The shortest waiting times are in Saskatchewan (8.6 weeks), British Columbia (16.6 weeks), and Ontario (17.6 weeks). The longest total waits are in Newfoundland & Labrador (23.8 weeks), Manitoba (23.1 weeks), and Nova Scotia (22.7 weeks).

Wait time by segment and specialty

The total wait time for psychiatric treatment can be examined in two consecutive segments:

1. The first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a psychiatrist.
2. The second segment occurs from the consultation with a psychiatrist to the point at which treatment begins.

Graph B1: Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Province, 2011



Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

Table B2: Psychiatry, 2011
Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP

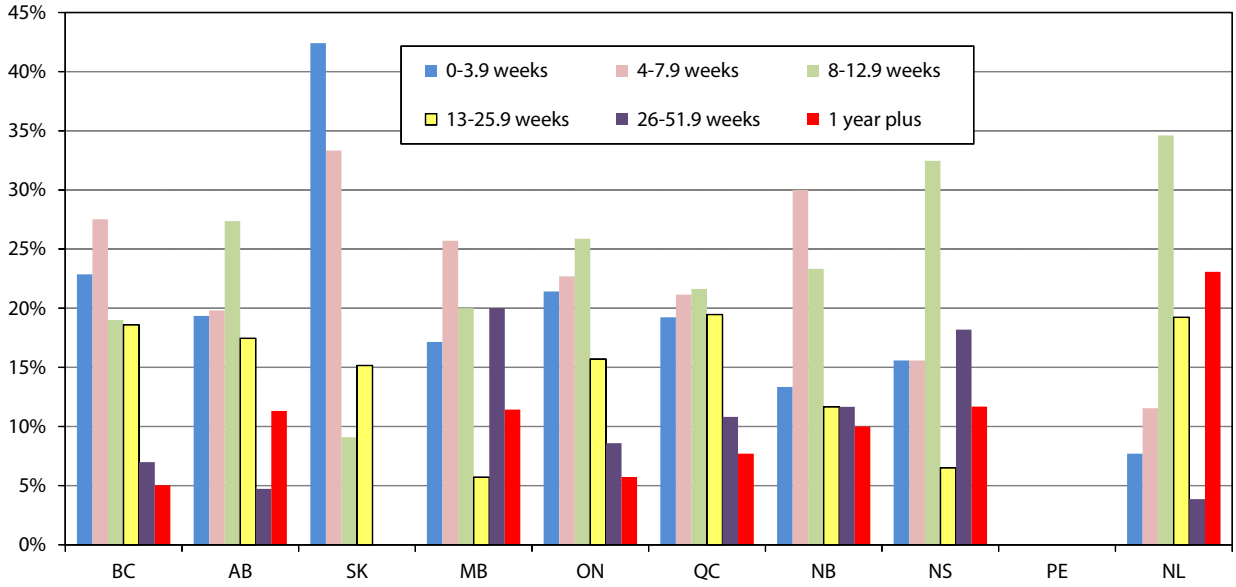
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Urgent	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	1.5	2.0
Elective	7.5	8.0	4.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	7.0	—	6.5	7.7

Table B2 indicates the number of weeks that patients wait for initial appointments with psychiatrists after referral from their general practitioners or from other specialists. The waiting time to see a psychiatrist on an urgent basis across the provinces is 2.0 weeks, ranging from 1.0 week in Nova Scotia, 1.5 weeks in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland & Labrador, and 2.0 weeks in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 7.7 weeks. The provinces with the longest wait times for elective referrals (8.0 weeks) are Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec, followed by British Columbia (7.5 weeks) and Nova Scotia (7.0 weeks). Saskatchewan is the province with

Table B3: Psychiatry, 2011
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	7.5	6.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	10.0	4.0	6.0	—	12.0	7.6
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	14.0	10.0	3.0	21.0	9.0	16.0	13.5	8.0	—	26.0	12.1
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	4.0	6.0	1.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	—	12.0	4.2
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	6.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	26.0	—	20.0	8.9
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	6.0	8.0	6.0	34.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	—	16.0	11.5
Access a day program	6.0	8.5	6.0	3.8	7.0	4.0	7.0	13.0	—	8.0	6.3
Access an eating disorders program	11.0	17.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	24.0	5.0	12.0	—	4.0	14.8
Access a housing program	24.0	26.0	2.5	26.0	20.0	13.0	26.0	31.0	—	20.0	19.6
Access an evening program	8.0	8.5	—	52.0	8.0	13.5	12.0	—	—	8.0	11.1
Access a sleep disorders program	10.0	44.0	4.5	26.0	7.0	22.0	41.0	39.0	—	54.0	16.5
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	4.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	9.0	8.0	—	10.0	10.0
Unweighted Median	9.1	13.3	4.6	18.1	9.6	12.8	13.3	15.7	—	17.3	11.2

Graph B2: Frequency Distribution of Survey Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province, 2011



the shortest wait for an elective referral (4.0 weeks), followed by Manitoba (5.0 weeks) and New Brunswick (6.0 weeks).

Table B3 summarizes the waiting time for certain elective psychiatric treatments after an appointment with a specialist. The longest waiting times for this second segment of the total waiting time are in Manitoba (18.1 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (17.3 weeks) and Nova Scotia (15.7 weeks). The shortest waits are in Saskatchewan (4.6 weeks), British Columbia (9.1 weeks), and Ontario (9.6 weeks). Among the treatments, patients wait longest to access a housing program (19.6 weeks) or a sleep disorders program (16.5 weeks), while the wait times are shortest for pharmacotherapy (4.2 weeks), and admission to a day program (6.3 weeks).

Graph B2 presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province and by region. In all provinces, the wait for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks. Saskatchewan performs the highest proportion of treatments within 13 weeks (84.8 percent) and within 8 weeks (75.8%). Waits of 26 weeks or more are least frequent in Saskatchewan (0.0%) and British Columbia (12.0%), and most frequent in Manitoba (31.4%).

Table B4 compares the 2010 and 2011 waiting times for treatment. This year's study indicates an overall increase in the waiting time between consultation with a specialist and elective treatment in 7 provinces. Only two provinces experienced a decrease: British Columbia (–7%) and Saskatchewan (–48%).

Table B4: Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Psychiatric Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Province, 2011 and 2010

Province	2011	2010	% chg
British Columbia	9.1	9.8	-7%
Alberta	13.3	10.7	25%
Saskatchewan	4.6	8.9	-48%
Manitoba	18.1	4.6	292%
Ontario	9.6	8.5	14%
Quebec	12.8	8.4	51%
New Brunswick	13.3	10.7	25%
Nova Scotia	15.7	13.5	16%
Prince Edward Island	—	—	—
Newfoundland	17.3	8.3	108%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Comparison between clinically reasonable and actual wait times

Physicians responding to the survey are also asked to provide a clinically reasonable waiting time for the various treatments. Specialists generally indicate a period of time substantially shorter than the median number of weeks patients actually wait for treatment (see tables B5 and B6). Table B5 summarizes the reasonable waiting times for psychiatric treatments and is based on the same methodology used to create table B3. Table B6 summarizes the differences between the median reasonable and actual waiting times across the provinces for treatment after an appointment with a specialist, and shows that in 92 percent of cases, the actual waiting time for treatment (in table B3) is greater than the clinically reasonable median waiting time (in table B5). Saskatchewan and Ontario come closest to meeting the standard of "reasonable," in that the actual overall median specialist-to-treatment waits only exceed the corresponding "reasonable" values by 16 and 141 percent respectively, a smaller gap than in the other provinces.

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 5.1 percent of patients are on waiting lists because they have requested a delay or postponement of their treatment. Conversely, the proportion of patients who would have begun their

Table B5: Psychiatry, 2011
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	4.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	—	6.0	4.0
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	5.5	11.0	—	6.0	6.2
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	2.0	2.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	—	4.0	2.1
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	3.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	7.0	—	6.0	4.5
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	4.0	4.1
Access a day program	4.0	4.0	1.8	3.3	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	—	4.0	3.9
Access an eating disorders program	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	4.0	—	6.0	4.2
Access a housing program	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	—	4.0	3.8
Access an evening program	4.0	4.0	—	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	—	4.0	4.3
Access a sleep disorders program	4.0	5.0	10.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	—	9.0	5.4
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	2.0	2.0	1.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	—	4.0	3.5
Unweighted Median	3.4	3.7	4.0	4.8	4.0	4.9	3.4	5.0	—	5.2	4.2

treatment within the week,[12] if it were available, is 74.5 percent (*Waiting Your Turn* 2011).

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Table B7 displays the median number of weeks patients must wait for access to a computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, or an electroencephalogram (EEG). Compared to 2010, the national waiting time for MRI scans has increased in 2011, while the waiting times for CT scans and EEGs has fallen. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 4.2 weeks, ranging from a high of 6.0 weeks (British Columbia), to a low of 3.0 weeks (Alberta and Saskatchewan). The median wait for an MRI across the provinces is 10.0 weeks. Patients in Newfoundland & Labrador wait the longest (52.0 weeks), while patients in Nova Scotia wait the least amount of time (4.0 weeks). Finally, the median wait for an EEG across the provinces is

12 The survey asks psychiatrists what percentage of their patients currently waiting for treatment would agree to begin treatment tomorrow if an opening were to arise. However, comments by respondents of previous surveys indicate that a lot of psychiatrists answer the question as if it were "a few days."

Table B6: Psychiatry, 2011
Difference Between Actual and Reasonable Patient Waits for Treatment after Appointment with a Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	88%	50%	14%	0%	75%	150%	60%	50%	—	100%	90%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	250%	150%	-25%	163%	50%	100%	145%	-27%	—	333%	94%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	100%	200%	-71%	100%	100%	100%	400%	0%	—	200%	103%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	100%	100%	125%	60%	100%	67%	200%	271%	—	233%	99%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	50%	100%	50%	580%	200%	200%	200%	83%	—	300%	182%
Access a day program	50%	113%	243%	15%	75%	7%	75%	225%	—	100%	62%
Access an eating disorders program	267%	325%	20%	33%	200%	380%	67%	200%	—	-33%	252%
Access a housing program	700%	550%	-17%	550%	400%	225%	940%	675%	—	400%	414%
Access an evening program	100%	113%	—	1200%	100%	170%	200%	—	—	100%	162%
Access a sleep disorders program	150%	780%	-55%	225%	75%	175%	925%	875%	—	500%	208%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	100%	100%	300%	200%	200%	200%	200%	100%	—	150%	184%
Weighted Median	172%	256%	16%	273%	141%	161%	291%	214%	—	233%	167%

Table B7: Waiting for Technology: Weeks Waited to Receive Selected Diagnostic Tests in 2011, 2010, and 2009

Province	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010	2009	2011	2010	2009
British Columbia	6	6.0	4.0	19	12.0	12.0	4	4.0	3.8
Alberta	3	5.0	4.0	8	8.0	10.0	4	4.0	4.0
Saskatchewan	3	2.5	8.0	15	13.0	18.0	6	6.0	8.5
Manitoba	4	3.0	4.5	11	6.0	5.0	4	6.0	2.8
Ontario	4	4.0	4.0	8	8.0	8.0	4	4.0	4.0
Quebec	4	7.0	4.0	7	12.0	14.0	4	4.0	4.0
New Brunswick	5	5.5	4.5	15.5	11.5	8.0	4	3.0	6.5
Nova Scotia	4	5.0	2.3	4	10.0	4.0	4	4.0	4.0
P.E.I.	—	—	7.5	—	—	14.5	—	—	3.0
Newfoundland	4	2.5	6.0	52	16.0	46.0	2	1.0	4.5
Canada	4.2	5.0	4.1	10.0	9.7	10.5	4.0	4.1	4.0

4.0 weeks. Residents of Newfoundland & Labrador face the shortest waits for an EEG (2.0 weeks), while residents of Saskatchewan wait longest (6.0 weeks).[13]

Conclusion

The information documented here suggests that patients seeking mental health treatment are likely to be disappointed with their access. With a waiting time of 18.8 weeks from a general practitioner to elective treatment, and with wait times from a meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are nearly 167 percent longer than specialists feel is appropriate, it is clear that many patients in need of psychiatric attention are facing the effects of rationing in our health care system.

13 For comparison, the overall Canadian median waiting time for CT scans was 4.2 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 4.2 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 1.2 weeks for nine provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs in the psychiatry survey was 10.0 weeks, compared to 9.2 weeks for the other 12 specialties. The mean absolute difference in this case, again for nine provinces, was 7.5 weeks.

Appendix C: The Fraser Institute National Waiting List Survey questionnaire

General Surgery

Please circle the province in which your office is located:

AB BC MB NB NL NS NT NU ON PE QC SK YT

1. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for a routine office consultation with you? _____ week(s)

2. Do you restrict the number of patients waiting to see **you** in any manner? (i.e. Do you accept referrals only at certain times of the year?)
❑ Yes ❑ No

3. Over the past 12 months, what percentage of the surgical procedures you performed were done on a day surgery basis? _____ %

4. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for the following types of elective surgery or diagnostic procedures? What would you consider to be a clinically reasonable waiting time for these types of surgery and procedures?

Surgery or Procedure	Number of Weeks to Wait	Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait
Hernia repair (all types)/hydrocele		
Cholecystectomy		
Colonoscopy (diagnostic)		
Incision, excision, anastomosis of intestine and other operations on intestine		
Hemorrhoidectomy/other anal surgery		
Breast biopsy		
Mastectomy/segmental resection		
Operations on bronchus and lung		
Incidentally discovered and unruptured aneurysms		
Varicose vein surgery		

5. Has the length of your waiting lists changed since last year at this time?

❑ Increased ❑ Decreased ❑ Remained the Same

6. If the length of your waiting lists has changed, what are the major reasons for the change? (Check all which may be applicable.)

_____ Availability of O/R nurses
_____ Availability of other technical staff
_____ Availability of beds
_____ Availability of O/R time
_____ Change in patient load
_____ Availability of ancillary investigations or consultations (i.e. MRI, CT scans)
_____ Other

7. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery are on a waiting list primarily because **they** requested a delay or postponement? _____ %

8. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery do you think would agree to having their procedure performed tomorrow if an opening arose? _____ %

9. To the best of your knowledge, what percentage of your patients that are listed on hospital waiting lists might also be listed by other physicians for the same procedure? _____ %

10. Do you use the following types of diagnostic tests? If so, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for these tests?

Do you use this diagnostic test?	Yes	No	Infrequently	Number of weeks patients wait
CT Scan				
MRI				
Ultrasound				

11. Approximately what percentage of your patients **inquired** in the past 12 months about the availability of medical services:

In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

12. Approximately what percentage of your patients **received** non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months:

In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

Thank you very much for your assistance.

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